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MAGAZINE
SOUTH AFRICA

PHOTOGRAPHY, PAGEANTRY, MO

Yolanda Zukula

Madison Taylor

Cover Model
Bronwyn Wessels
Abri Kruger Photography

Pageant Finalists

Federico Ancillai

Dr. Manuela Jimenez

Issue 140
Featuring
National & International
Models

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ISSUE 137

Bronwyn Wessels

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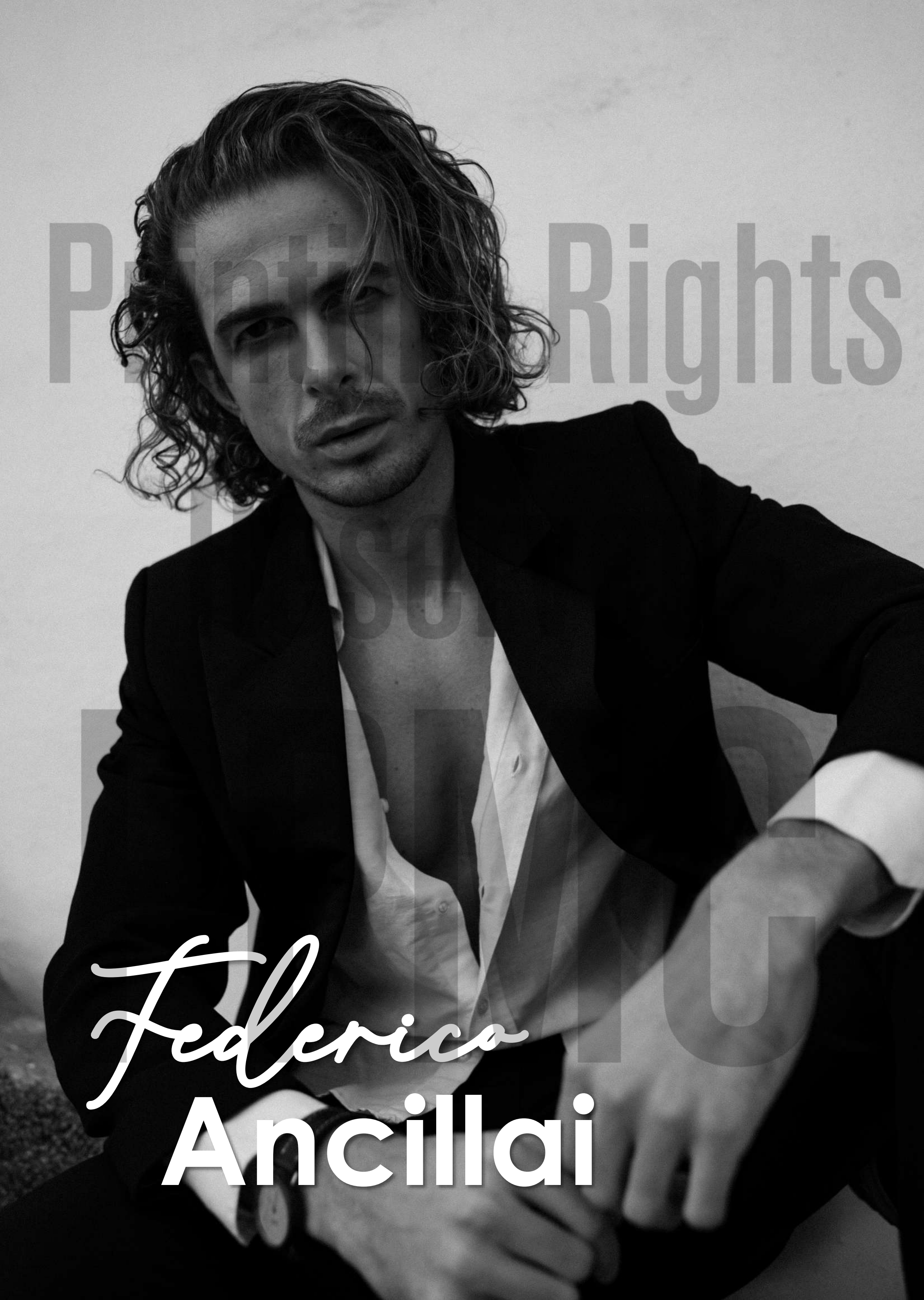
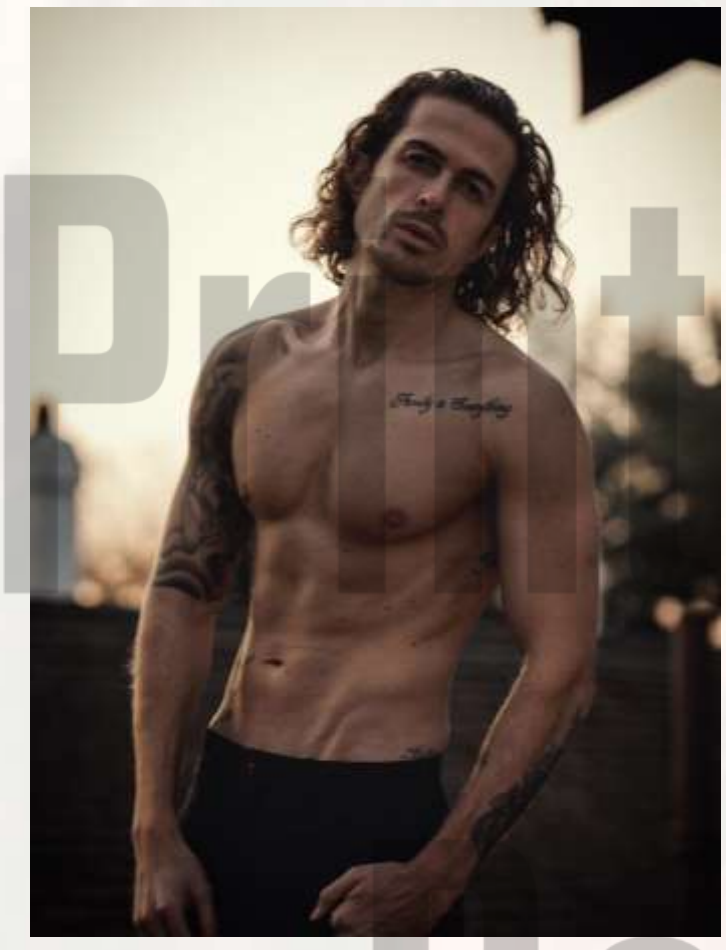

Federica
Ancillai

#Actor

Interview with Federico Ancillai

Landing a Role in Binnelanders



Growing up in a family of artists, Federico Ancillai was surrounded by storytelling and filmmaking from an early age. "Listening to all the beautiful stories about the movies they shot with extraordinary artists like Fellini, Sergio Leone, Matt Damon, Heath Ledger, and Hilary Swank was wonderful," he recalls. Although acting wasn't initially his dream, being on Hollywood sets and witnessing the creative process eventually sparked his passion for the craft.

Rome, a city steeped in art and history, played a crucial role in shaping Federico's artistic journey. "Italy and Rome are artistic at their core. There is so much art everywhere, and for an actor, it's important to grow and shape your passion around it," he explains. Studying the old Italian cinema that made history worldwide helped him appreciate the importance of storytelling.

Federico's career began in theater, where his first role was a challenging one. "I got my first role at my very first audition. It was tough because I was the main character, and I had to learn a script that was nearly 200 pages long. I will never forget how difficult it was!" he laughs. Over time, he transitioned to television and film, playing a variety of roles that required versatility. "As an actor, you have to be as flexible as possible. The more diverse roles you can take on, the more opportunities you create for yourself."

His journey to South African television started with an unexpected opportunity. "I was in Rome on vacation when my agent asked me to send in a self-tape for Binnelanders. The casting director was looking for an Italian actor to play Marco. I did the audition, and after just two weeks, I got the role.“ Landing the role was a historic moment, making Federico the first Italian actor to be cast in a South African Afrikaans television show. "It was groundbreaking," he says. "To be part of the South African TV industry and to act in Afrikaans was an incredible experience. It was a dream come true."

Despite his character primarily speaking English, adapting to Afrikaans on set still required effort. "It wasn't too difficult because most of my scenes were in English. I only had to memorize a few Afrikaans words to match my cues. The team was great and tried to speak as much English as possible to help me understand and feel comfortable."

The response from the audience and production team has been overwhelmingly positive. "From the directors to the production team, everyone loved my role as Marco. The audience has been amazing, sending me so many compliments. It’s wonderful when fans appreciate your work.“ Federico describes his experience on the Binnelanders set as one of the best in his career. "Everything worked perfectly. The professionalism on set made it an incredible experience for me."

His journey to South Africa was not just about career opportunities. "I was at a film festival in Amsterdam where my film was nominated. That’s where I met my girlfriend. After a few visits to South Africa, I practically never left," he smiles. "I initially planned to stay for two weeks, but I kept coming back. The transition wasn’t easy. Moving to a new country is never simple, and life here is quite different from Europe, so I had to adapt quickly."

Comparing the entertainment industries in Italy and South Africa, Federico notes similarities and differences. "It's quite the same in terms of difficulty. You need to be talented, but you also need the right agent who believes in you and gets you the right auditions. Both industries have periods of plenty of work and times when there is nothing. That’s the part I don’t like.“ South African culture has fascinated him. "There are so many different cultures and languages here. As an artist, learning about new cultures is always inspiring.“

His biggest career challenge so far was breaking into the South African industry. "People told me it would be nearly impossible for me to act here because of my accent. I proved them wrong. I didn’t have an agent for a long time, which made it even harder since I couldn’t audition. That was a tough period, but I kept believing in myself."

To aspiring international actors hoping to work in South Africa, Federico has this advice: "This is a wonderful country with incredible, professional people. There is so much to learn from the culture, and the industry is growing fast with amazing projects.“ Looking ahead, Federico is working on several auditions and has plans to create his own film. "Hopefully, by the end of this year, I will start working on my film. We are currently writing the script."

As for his long-term goals, he plans to continue working in South Africa but remains open to opportunities elsewhere. "For now, my goal is to stay and work in SA, but I always leave the door open for my country, Italy. Hollywood? I never really thought about it, but many Hollywood productions come to Cape Town to film. I am looking for an agent there, and maybe my next feature will be in one of those movies. In this industry, you never know what will happen tomorrow. You just have to believe in beautiful things, even the impossible. As Nelson Mandela said, ‘It always seems impossible until it’s done.’"

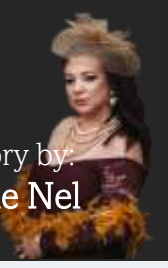
Cover Model

Bronwyn Wessels

#Model

Interview with Bronwyn Wessels

The Heart Behind the Face of Helderberg



A story by:
Diane Nel

In a beautiful twist of fate, Bronwyn Wessels, a 26-year-old wedding and lifestyle photographer from Somerset West, was crowned the Face of Helderberg. The title was awarded by an external panel of three judges who recognized not only her outer beauty but also her inner passion for giving back to the community. For someone accustomed to capturing moments behind the lens as the owner of Bronie B Photography, stepping into the spotlight was both humbling and unexpected.

"I'm naturally quite shy and not used to all this attention," Bronwyn admits. "But I felt it was important to use this platform to encourage others to see the beauty in giving back."

Bronwyn's love for photography blossomed at a young age, and today, she lives her dream every day by creating timeless keepsakes for her clients. Married to her supportive husband, Shaun Wessels, she finds joy in balancing her personal and professional life, always grounded by her faith. "I give all the glory to God for bringing me to where I am today," she shares. The decision to enter the Face of Helderberg competition came after some encouragement from a friend. Initially hesitant, Bronwyn saw it as an opportunity to support a meaningful cause rather than a beauty contest. "For me, it was like giving my tithe," she reflects. "It wasn't about vanity but about serving and making a difference."

As someone who has faced her own battles with ADHD, dyslexia, and depression, Bronwyn is passionate about creating awareness around mental health.

"It's been a challenging mountain to climb," she admits, "but these experiences have shaped me into the person I am today. I want to use my platform to remind others that they are not alone and to inspire hope."

Her advocacy work extends beyond mental health awareness. Bronwyn actively seeks opportunities to uplift others in her community, whether through mentoring young photographers, organizing local events, or speaking out about issues close to her heart. She believes that true beauty is found in acts of kindness and that small efforts can create a ripple effect of change.

Bronwyn's journey to becoming the Face of Helderberg included a memorable photoshoot, where the roles were reversed, and she stepped in front of the camera. "At first, it felt strange," she laughs. "I'm used to being in control behind the lens, but this experience taught me to let go and enjoy the moment."

The shoot was brought to life by a talented team. Eloïse from Eloïse Professional Makeup & Dapper Salon ensured Bronwyn's natural beauty shone through, while Abri Kruger Photography captured every angle with creativity and precision. Yvette from Ace Models provided guidance and encouragement, helping Bronwyn feel confident and authentic. With her new title, Bronwyn is determined to leave a lasting impact. She dreams of expanding her efforts to raise awareness and support for mental health and the homeless, fostering a community where everyone feels seen and valued. She hopes to collaborate with local organizations to create initiatives that provide support to those in need and inspire others to give back.

"This journey has been humbling and transformative," she concludes. "I hope to inspire others to find beauty not just in appearances but in acts of kindness and compassion."

We would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors: Henriët Thompson from Multinet for sponsoring the R2000 cash prize, Abri Kruger Photography for sponsoring Bronwyn's photo shoot, Eloïse Professional Make-up Academy & Artistry for doing Bronwyn's make-up for the shoot, Dapper Salon/Barbershop – Paardevlei for styling Bronwyn's hair for the shoot, Yvette Carmen Muller for sponsoring the amazing Finishing & Deportment Classes as well as Ex-Miss SA Cindy Nel's new book, Fragrant House Somerset Mall for the bottle of genuine French Perfume and Diane Nel, Brand Ambassador of PPMC Magazine.

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Elle Glasspoole

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 139

From Being Crowned Face of SA High Schools 2024 to Representing South Africa on the Global Stage at the World Championships of Performing Arts

#Talent

Interview with Elle Glasspoole

From Face of SA High Schools to the World Stage

Elle Glasspoole's smile radiates the joy and gratitude she feels after being crowned Face of SA High Schools 2024. "I feel overwhelmed with joy and gratitude; this is such an incredible opportunity," she says, reflecting on the milestone that marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. As if the title weren't enough, Elle has also been invited to represent South Africa at the prestigious World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, a moment she describes as "a dream come true."

When Elle first received the news of her selection, she was overcome with emotion. "I was mainly shocked and in disbelief," she recalls. Competing against so many talented individuals made the achievement feel surreal, but she quickly realized the significance of the opportunity.

"It's not just an amazing experience—it's a chance to take away valuable lessons and skills. With Hollywood celebrities and top talent agencies on the judging panel, this could open doors for me in the performing arts industry," she shares.

Preparing for an event of this magnitude is no small task, but Elle is ready to rise to the challenge. "First and foremost, I've been working on raising the money to attend," she explains, acknowledging the financial hurdle. Beyond that, her focus has been on honing her craft.

"I'll spend the next few months rehearsing, refining my skills, and perfecting my performances. I'm working closely with my coaches and mentors to make sure I'm fully prepared. I'll be competing in various modeling categories and performing two solo flute pieces," she says with determination.

The support of her parents has been instrumental in her journey. "They've been my biggest support system throughout, offering guidance, encouragement, and unconditional love," Elle says. "Their sacrifices and belief in me have given me the confidence to take this next step, and I couldn't be more grateful."

Her journey into the spotlight began with a desire to create a positive impact and challenge herself. Competing in Face of SA High Schools has been a transformative experience. "It's taught me valuable lessons about perseverance and the importance of staying true to myself," she reflects. Now, with an international stage awaiting her, Elle is clear about her mission. "I want to inspire others to chase their dreams despite any challenges they may face. If I can do it, so can they."

Challenges have certainly played a part in Elle's story. "One of the biggest hurdles has been self-doubt and the fear of failure," she admits. To overcome these feelings, she leans on positivity and a favorite quote: 'You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.' These words remind her to push forward, even when the path feels uncertain. Balancing the demands of being a student, role model, and now an international representative isn't always easy, but Elle has found ways to manage. "I've learned to prioritize, manage my time effectively, and stay focused on my goals," she explains. With so much on her plate, Elle remains grounded by remembering why she started. "When I return, I want to share my story and use my platform to make a positive difference in my community," she says.

Elle believes South Africa's rich cultural heritage makes it a standout on the global performing arts stage. "We have so much talent and diversity. Our history of music, acting, and dance is unique, and that's what sets us apart," she says proudly. For her, representing South Africa isn't just about personal achievement—it's about showcasing the beauty and talent of her homeland to the world.

To young South Africans dreaming of international success, Elle offers heartfelt advice. "Believe in yourself, never give up, and work hard. Surround yourself with positive people, stay focused, and always be open to learning and growth," she encourages.

As Elle prepares for her journey to Los Angeles, she carries with her the dreams of a nation. Her story is one of courage, determination, and an unwavering belief in the power of possibility. From a small-town girl to an international representative, Elle Glasspoole is a name to remember—a beacon of hope and inspiration for South Africa and beyond.

Eryn Bailey

I've proved people wrong and kept going, no matter what. That's something I'm really proud of.

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#Talent

Interview with Erynn Bailey

Representing Ace Models Durbanville

At just twenty-four years old, Erynn Bailey is already carving out her place in the modeling and beauty therapy world. Representing Ace Models Durbanville, her journey began with excitement and a few nerves. “At first, I found it very interesting but challenging,” she shares. “I learned to be more confident and just focused on doing what makes me happy.” This philosophy has guided her as she continues to grow both personally and professionally.

Erynn’s passion for beauty therapy began at an early age, sparked by a unique interest. “I’ve always had an eye for detail, especially when it came to feet,” she says with a laugh. “That’s where it all started, and from there, I learned about waxing, massage, and other treatments. It was hectic at first because I work from home, but over time, I’ve found a way to manage it all.” Erynn’s dedication to her craft shines through, and she’s proud of how far she’s come in balancing her work and studies.

One of her proudest moments was being crowned 3rd Princess for Mr. and Miss Western Province 2024. It was an experience she’ll never forget. “I went on stage and just tried to be myself. My coach always says, ‘If you want to win a crown, you must own it.’ I didn’t expect to place because I’ve struggled with stage fright. Last October in Johannesburg, I froze on stage. But this time, my mentor jumped on stage and walked with me. It was emotional for everyone, and it showed me how much support I really have.” Her efforts have also been recognized with the "Rising Star Developer of Growth" award at her modeling academy. Erynn says this achievement symbolizes how much she’s grown as a model and an individual. “It represents the progress I’ve made since I started. I’ve learned not just how to walk confidently but also how to speak in public and share my journey on social media. I’ve worked hard, and this award means so much to me.”

As she looks ahead to 2025, Erynn is brimming with plans and ambitions. “This year, I’m aiming to take on bigger challenges. I want to try modeling for major brands like Jet or Pep, which would be amazing. I also plan to start driving—it’s part of my goal to keep growing and achieving new milestones.”

Family plays a central role in Erynn’s life, providing the foundation for her success. Raised by a single mother, with the support of her grandmothers, uncles, and brothers, Erynn feels surrounded by love and encouragement. “My mom is my role model,” she says proudly. “She’s always pushed me to work hard and put God first. My uncles have been like father figures to me, and my brothers are my world. They motivate me every day.”

One of her favorite ways to relax and connect with her mom is by walking on the beach. “It’s like being on another planet,” she says. “Feeling the sea air and spending time with my mom is so special. We’re really close, and those moments are priceless.”

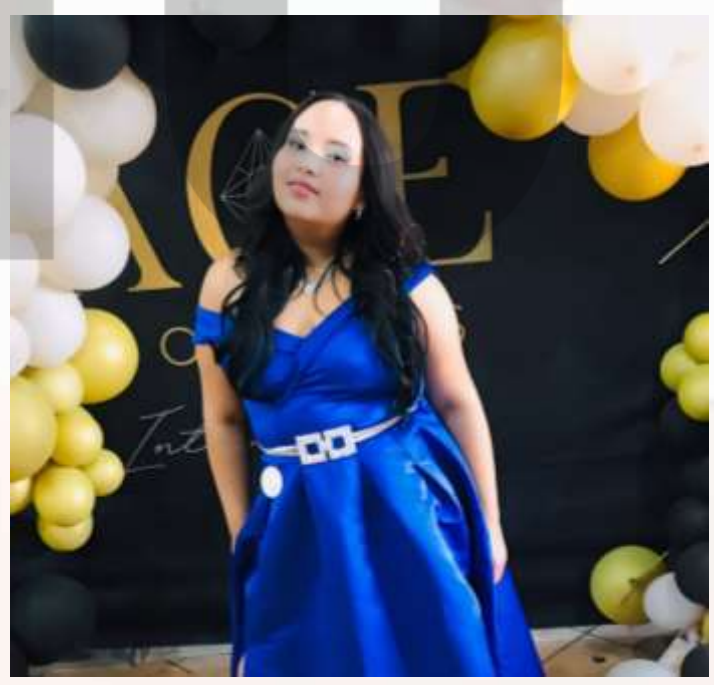
Balancing modeling, beauty therapy, and personal growth hasn’t been without its challenges, but Erynn has found her rhythm. “The end of the month is always busy with clients, and I have modeling classes every week. At first, it was tricky, but I’ve learned how to manage my time and push through. It’s all worth it because I love what I do.” Erynn is especially proud of how she’s overcome personal challenges, including living with epilepsy. “I’ve proved people wrong and kept going, no matter what. That’s something I’m really proud of.” Her journey is a testament to her strength and determination to rise above obstacles.

When asked for advice for those starting in modeling or beauty therapy, Erynn shares heartfelt words of wisdom. “Always believe in yourself and put God first. No matter what others say, stay focused on your goals. Anyone can achieve their dreams if they work hard enough and stay true to themselves.”

Her plans for the year ahead are as ambitious as they are exciting. “I want to explore more places around Cape Town, meet new people, and experience new opportunities. I’m excited to see where life takes me next.”

With her unwavering determination and a strong support system, Erynn Bailey is poised to achieve incredible things. She sums up her journey with a smile: “I take it one day at a time, but I keep going. The more I push forward, the more I become the best version of myself.”

Erynn’s story is one of growth, perseverance, and big dreams. Her journey inspires others to embrace challenges and pursue their passions with courage and determination. As she steps into 2025, there’s no doubt this rising star will continue to shine brightly.



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Prayer Mathebula

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

How 14-Year-Old Prayer Mathebula is Inspiring Her Community as Miss Teen Pienaar 2024/25

#Pageant

Introducing Prayer Mathebula

Miss Teen Pienaar 2024/25

A story by:
Etaiya
Briscoe

At just 14 years old, Prayer Mathebula is already proving that ambition and kindness can go hand in hand. As the newly crowned Miss Teen Pienaar 2024/25, this Grade 10 student at Bonginhlanhla Secondary School in Pienaar, Mpumalanga, is making her mark. Prayer, who balances her love for cooking, dancing, listening to music, and modeling, is a shining example of what it means to pursue your passions while staying grounded in your values.

"What inspired me to enter pageantry is my love for modeling and working on my public speaking," Prayer said with a smile. "I've always wanted to build my confidence so I can lead by example. Pageantry has not only given me a platform but also helped me grow personally in ways I never imagined."

Her journey to the crown was nothing short of extraordinary, and the moment she was announced as the 5th Miss Teen Pienaar remains etched in her heart. "It was the most amazing feeling," she recalled. "I even shed a tear because I was so happy and in disbelief. I am forever grateful for this title." But being Miss Teen Pienaar is about more than wearing a crown—it's about making an impact. Prayer is passionate about uplifting her community and inspiring her peers to lead meaningful lives. "I want to bring positive change to my community and empower my peers to do good in life," she said.

One of her initiatives is a back-to-school uniform drive, where she collects school uniforms in good condition to donate to children in need. "It's important to me to help those who don't have access to the basics," she explained. In addition to this project, Prayer regularly engages with her community by attending impactful social events and using her platform to inspire others.

While she carries out her duties with grace, Prayer also prioritizes her education. "When I'm at school, I leave my phone at home to avoid distractions. After school, I focus on my assignments and homework, and I make sure to spend quality time with my family," she shared. She appreciates the support of the Miss Pienaar organization. "They're not demanding and give us time to focus on our studies, which I truly value."

Her journey has not been without challenges. Just days before the pageant finale, Prayer faced cyberbullying from someone she considered a friend. "It was a tough experience, but I didn't let it break me," she said. Instead, she has turned her experience into a mission. "I want to use my story to fight against cyberbullying among teenagers. I always promote self-love and positivity because I believe in the power of kindness."

Prayer credits much of her success to the mentorship she receives through the Miss Pienaar pageant. "They give me the best guidance and advice, helping me make decisions that will benefit me in the long run," she said. This mentorship has shaped her approach to interviews and events. "I always do my research, dress appropriately, and prepare thoroughly. It's all about showing respect for the opportunities I'm given." For Prayer, beauty is far more than skin deep. "To me, beauty is your heart—how you treat others, how you love, and how you support those around you," she said thoughtfully. "That's what beauty means to me."

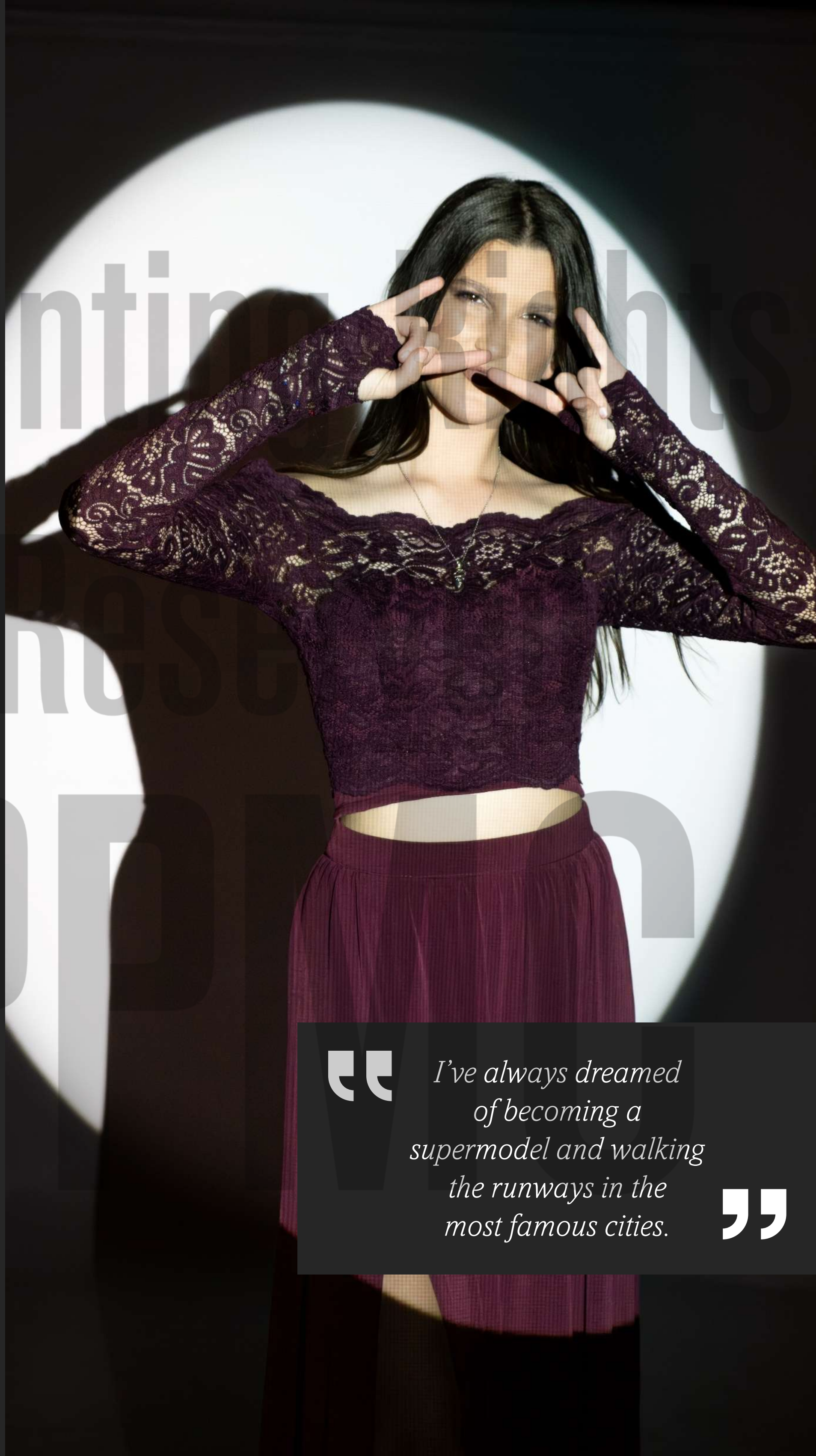
When asked what advice she would give to others interested in pageantry, her response was simple but heartfelt: "Join pageantry only if you're truly interested. Do everything from your heart, and always stand out and excel in your tasks."

Looking ahead, Prayer has big dreams. "I want to become a professional lawyer," she said with confidence. "I'll be the first lawyer in my family, and I'm determined to make that dream come true."

Her favorite memory from her time as Miss Teen Pienaar so far has been the overwhelming love and support she received. "The warm welcome from the founder of the pageant and the Miss Pienaar family on social media made me feel so special. It's something I'll never forget," she shared.

Prayer Mathebula's journey as Miss Teen Pienaar is a powerful story of courage, determination, and compassion. With her unwavering commitment to her community, her studies, and her dreams, she is not only an inspiration to her peers but a beacon of hope for her community. Her message is clear: with hard work, kindness, and self-belief, anything is possible.

Madison Jade Collett



> *I've always dreamed of becoming a supermodel and walking the runways in the most famous cities.*

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#Model

Meet Madison Jade Collett

A Young Star with Big Dreams

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

At just 15 years old, Madison Jade Collett is a young model with a clear vision for her future. Her journey in the world of modeling has been shaped by determination, self-discovery, and the unwavering support of her family, friends, and mentors. “I’ve always dreamed of becoming a supermodel and walking the runways in the most famous cities,” Madison shares. Her passion for modeling started early, though her journey began in an unexpected way. “Growing up, I was sort of seen as tomboyish.

I never wore dresses or colors—I was always wearing black,” she admits with a smile. That began to change when her mom enrolled her in a modeling school during primary school. “I was there for a short time, but I’m thankful for it because it taught me to explore color and step out of my comfort zone.”

Madison’s journey has been one of continuous growth. She draws motivation from the opportunities modeling provides to challenge herself. “What motivates me most is the chance to better myself with every photoshoot and competition. It allows me to grow personally, push my limits, and meet amazing new people.” Her ultimate goal? “I want to be Miss South Africa one day and make my family proud,” she says, her voice full of determination.

Like any dream, the path hasn’t always been easy. Madison candidly speaks about the challenges she’s faced. “One of the hardest lessons I’ve learned is that you’re not going to win at everything. There have been times I’ve felt like I let myself down or wasn’t good enough.” However, she quickly adds that her support system has been a source of strength.

“My modeling school, Supreme Modelling, along with my family and friends, have always reminded me that I’m a winner in their eyes. That gives me the strength to keep moving forward and give my best.”

Madison looks up to Winnie Harlow, a supermodel who has inspired millions with her confidence and success despite challenges. “She’s so inspiring because, no matter what you look like, everyone is beautiful,” Madison says, reflecting her own commitment to promoting self-love and kindness. While her style is typically casual and comfort-driven, Madison loves how modeling allows her to transform. “It gives you the opportunity to dress up and be absolutely runway-ready,” she says. She also recognizes the importance of staying active and healthy.

“I like to exercise because it’s important to keep fit and healthy. I’m not on any diet, but I try to eat a balanced diet and be kind to my body. What I eat shows on my skin, so I’m mindful of it.”

Madison values networking as a crucial part of modeling. “It opens up opportunities, like getting promotion work through referrals. You learn so much from other people and get great ideas for different styles and trends.” She stays connected by attending her weekly modeling classes, staying active on social media, and participating in photoshoots and competitions. “Networking has impacted my life because I see other amazing models achieve incredible things, and that pushes me to reach my full potential.”

For Madison, staying true to herself is essential. “Be you, stay true to yourself, and always be humble and kind to others,” she advises. “The modeling industry can be harsh sometimes, but if you stay grounded, have a good support system, and give your best, you will succeed.”

Her aspirations for the future are as ambitious as they are inspiring. “I want to be scouted and tour the world, wearing famous designers’ outfits and getting my name known. Personally, I hope to keep growing as an individual and build great relationships, becoming a great mentor and friend along the way.” Madison’s message to others is simple but powerful: “Don’t give up, strive for greatness, and always be kind to others.” It’s clear that Madison’s journey has only just begun, and with her drive and determination, she is sure to achieve her dreams and inspire others along the way.

Preview

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Bejandri
Lourens

#Pageant

Interview with Bejandri Lourens

Miss Grand South Africa 2025 Finalist

At just 22 years old, Bejandri Lourens is a young entrepreneur, a dedicated mentor, and a pageant finalist with a clear vision for the future. As the reigning Miss Springs 2024 and Miss Ekurhuleni 2024, she proudly represents her hometown while managing her own modeling academy, C&C Model Academy by Bee. Now, she is taking on a new challenge as a finalist for Miss Grand South Africa 2025.

“I’ve always dreamt of representing my country on an international stage, showcasing not only my talents but also advocating for meaningful change,” Bejandri shares. “Miss Grand South Africa resonated deeply with me because of its mission to fight against war and violence—a cause I genuinely support.” Being a finalist in this prestigious competition is more than just a title for Bejandri; it is a personal milestone. “It’s an honor and a moment of immense pride. Being a finalist isn’t just about competing—it’s a celebration of courage, growth, and the belief that one person can make a difference.”

Her journey to the competition was an act of faith. “I submitted my entry on Christmas Day, just before the deadline, as a leap of faith in pursuing my dreams,” she recalls. “The journey so far has been incredible. It’s filled with growth, challenges, and new opportunities, all of which have taught me the value of stepping outside my comfort zone.”

Balancing the demands of a high-profile pageant with her other responsibilities has not been easy, but Bejandri stays focused. “Time management and staying committed to my priorities have been essential. My passion for what I do keeps me going, and having a supportive network of family and friends makes everything a lot easier.”

Like many others, she has faced challenges along the way. “One of the biggest challenges has been self-doubt—questioning whether I’m good enough to compete at this level. To overcome this, I’ve leaned on my faith, reminding myself of my purpose and the strength I have to persevere.” Outside of her work and pageantry, Bejandri enjoys spending time with loved ones, visiting markets, and staying active. “These activities allow me to unwind, recharge, and maintain balance in my life while fostering meaningful connections and staying healthy.” She is deeply passionate about advocating against gender-based violence and the violence faced by children in South Africa. “These issues have devastating effects on individuals and communities. I am committed to raising awareness and advocating for change. By empowering women and children, providing resources for support, and promoting peaceful communities, I hope to contribute to ending this cycle of violence,” she explains.

Bejandri believes that pageants like Miss Grand South Africa have the power to make a real impact. “Pageants provide a platform to amplify voices and bring attention to important causes. Through outreach initiatives, community work, and social influence, they can inspire change and encourage people to unite for a greater good.”

What sets her apart from other finalists is her deep commitment to making a difference. “I believe it’s my unwavering dedication to inspiring and empowering others. My journey has been driven by purpose, and I aim to bring a unique perspective to the competition.” Her biggest source of support and inspiration comes from her loved ones. “My family, mentors, and close friends have been my biggest support system. They’ve encouraged me to pursue my dreams fearlessly. I also draw inspiration from my faith and the belief that everything happens for a reason.”

This journey has also helped her grow in many ways. “This experience has pushed me to grow in confidence, refine my communication skills, and embrace challenges with an open heart. It has also strengthened my ability to connect with others and represent myself and my community on a larger platform.” Looking to the future, Bejandri has big aspirations. “In pageantry, I hope to one day represent South Africa on an international stage and use my voice to inspire meaningful change. Beyond that, I want to continue building my modeling academy and empowering young individuals to reach their full potential. I also aspire to be remembered for making a positive impact and advocating for the end of gender-based violence and violence against children in South Africa.” If she wins the title of Miss Grand South Africa, she is determined to use her platform for good. “I would use the platform to advocate for peace, support anti-violence initiatives, and empower young women through mentorship and wellness programs. I want to be a role model who inspires others to believe in their potential and take action to make a difference.”

She takes immense pride in her South African heritage. “This country is filled with so much diversity, beauty, and strength, and I want to represent that on both local and global stages. Pageantry gives me a unique opportunity to showcase not only my talents but also the incredible culture and potential of South Africa.”

Aside from her modeling work, Bejandri is dedicated to self-improvement. “Whether it's through reading, taking courses, or learning from my mentors and peers, I strive to continue growing in both my personal and professional life. This continuous journey of education is what fuels my ability to stay relevant and adaptable in the fast-paced world of pageantry and beyond.”

She lives by the motto, “Beauty with a purpose.” “It’s not just about appearance but the impact we make on the world. I live by this every day, striving to be the best version of myself while making a difference in the lives of others.”

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Lehlogonolo Nkatleko Ramodike

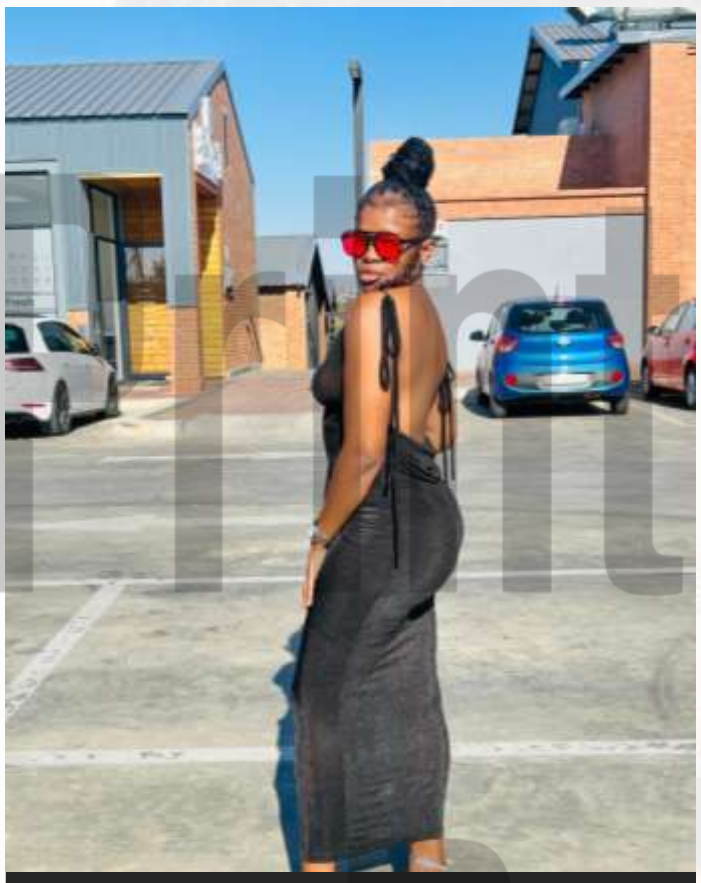
PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

From Self-Doubt to Success - Lehlogonolo Nkatleko Ramodike's Inspiring Journey of Resilience, Individuality, and Pursuing Dreams Against All Odds

#Model

Lehlogonolo Nkatleko Ramodike

Confidence and Determination



Instagram: @miss_nkate21
Facebook: Nkateko Ramodike

Lehlogonolo Nkatleko Ramodike's journey is a testament to the power of resilience and self-belief. Despite facing challenges that could have held her back, she has emerged as a role model, inspiring others to overcome their fears, embrace their individuality, and pursue their dreams with confidence and determination.

"My early passion for modeling started in high school," Lehlogonolo shares. "I loved the idea of it, but I thought I'd only pursue it as a hobby. Growing up, some people encouraged me to follow this passion, but self-doubt kept me from taking the leap." She recalls the internal battle she faced, feeling like she wasn't good enough. "It put me down to a point where I believed I didn't have what it takes for modeling."

Over time, she learned to overcome these feelings. "I realized that self-doubt is just in your mind. I learned to trust my gut, have faith in myself, and believe that I have what it takes to achieve my goals. If you take a leap of faith, you'll thank yourself later," she says, her voice filled with conviction.

To aspiring models and young people facing similar challenges, Lehlogonolo offers heartfelt advice. "Focus on embracing your individuality and letting go of the fear of judgment. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and take risks. Success doesn't come to you; you have to go to it. You are beautiful, you have a gorgeous body, and your time is now—go show the world who you are."

Though she didn't follow her modeling passion initially, Lehlogonolo has carved out a unique path for herself as an influencer and brand promoter. She has worked with local brands such as Cannabis Culture and Beamers Clothing and is the face of Eve Glam Studio.

"Every shoot I do is an opportunity to convince clients that the brand I'm promoting is the right choice. It's taught me the value of hard work and creativity." She hints at an upcoming collaboration with another brand, though she remains tight-lipped for now.

Being an influencer has its hurdles. "The journey hasn't been easy. People will always have something to say about what you do. You have to convince your audience why they should follow you and watch your content, and when engagement is low, it can feel discouraging. But no one promised an easy life—you just have to keep pushing forward."

Balancing her various roles as an influencer, promoter, and aspiring lawyer is no small feat. "I establish boundaries, manage my time wisely, and take breaks when needed. Having a daily to-do list helps me keep everything on track." Her aspirations extend far beyond her current achievements.

"In influencing, I hope to work with bigger brands and maybe even revisit my modeling dreams. As a future lawyer, I aim to develop my skills, gain a deeper understanding of clients, and offer pro bono services to underserved communities."

Her upbringing plays a significant role in shaping her determination. "My family was the poorest in our village. No one before me had the opportunity to go to university, and I'm proud to be the first. That experience taught me the value of hard work and perseverance. Your background doesn't define your future—you can achieve anything if you put your focus and energy into it." Lehlogonolo credits her family as her biggest source of support.

"My mother is my hero; she's the person I strive to make proud. But I'm grateful for every single member of my family—my father, brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles—everyone has been by my side through it all. I also have two friends who are more like sisters to me, and their support means the world."

To young girls struggling with self-doubt, Lehlogonolo offers this advice: "Don't compare yourself to others. Everyone's journey is different, and someone else's success doesn't mean you lack strengths. Focus on yourself, and you'll find happiness and fulfillment."

She also emphasizes the importance of education. "School is a powerful tool for building a better future. Just because you come from a certain background doesn't mean you're not worthy. Learn from your challenges and use them to become the best version of yourself."

Lehlogonolo's journey has taught her many life lessons, from overcoming self-doubt to navigating the pressures of keeping a public image. She's also learned the importance of setting boundaries and maintaining creativity. "I've realized that I can't impress everyone, and I've worked on separating my personal life from social media while still giving my best in everything I do."

Her closing message is one of hope and empowerment. "If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it. This reminds me that trusting myself and my instincts is the key to unlocking my full potential." Lehlogonolo Nkatleko Ramodike is more than an influencer, promoter, or aspiring lawyer—she's a beacon of inspiration for anyone who dares to dream big and overcome the odds.

Through her journey, she continues to show that with courage and determination, anything is possible.

Nombe

Happy Matsim

> *To me, beauty is about kindness, confidence, and the positive impact you have on others.*

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#Pageant

Interview with Happy Matsimbe

Miss Pienaar 2024/25

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

At 22, Happy Matsimbe has already carved her path as a marketing consultant, and now, she adds the prestigious title of Miss Pienaar 2024/25 to her list of achievements. A resident of Pienaar in Mpumalanga, Happy's journey into pageantry was motivated by her desire to challenge herself and create a platform for the causes she deeply cares about.

"I was inspired to enter pageantry because I wanted to challenge myself and use the platform to advocate for causes I am passionate about," says Happy, reflecting on her decision. Her time in the pageant has been nothing short of transformative, giving her the chance to grow in confidence and develop leadership skills. "It has allowed me to become a stronger, more empowered version of myself."

The crowning moment, which she describes as surreal, left her filled with both joy and gratitude. "Being crowned was a moment filled with so much emotion. It reinforced my belief in hard work and perseverance and reminded me of the responsibility that comes with the title.“ During her reign, Happy is determined to use her position to advocate for education, mental health, and girl power. "I plan to organize community outreach programs and collaborate with local organizations to make a meaningful impact," she explains.

Her preparation for this role involves constant self-improvement. "I practice my public speaking skills and stay informed about current events related to my platform. I also lean on my mentors, who provide valuable guidance as I take on new responsibilities."

The path to this title hasn't been without its challenges. "Managing my time between being a titleholder and maintaining my personal commitments was tough," she admits. "But I learned to set clear priorities and leaned on my friends and family for support." With her title in hand, Happy is also keen on giving back to the community that has supported her. "My community helped me collect cans for the pageant, and I've already been invited to help out at one of their upcoming events."

Balancing the demands of being Miss Pienaar with her daily life requires careful planning. "I create a schedule that accommodates both my studies and personal commitments. It's important to make time for both my responsibilities and self-care," she says, emphasizing the importance of balance.

Happy believes that beauty goes far beyond physical appearance. "To me, beauty is about kindness, confidence, and the positive impact you have on others," she shares. "My understanding of beauty has deepened, and I've come to appreciate inner beauty even more.“ Mentorship has played a crucial role in Happy's journey. "The guidance from former titleholders has been invaluable. They've helped me navigate challenges and provided insights into effective advocacy," she notes.

For aspiring contestants, Happy offers a simple but powerful piece of advice: "Stay true to yourself and choose a platform that resonates with your passions. Authenticity is key to creating meaningful connections and making a positive impact.“ Looking to the future, Happy is determined to continue her advocacy efforts.

"I plan to pursue a career in modeling and marketing, where I can use my experiences to make a difference," she says, her passion for empowering others clear. With her deep dedication and clear vision, it's certain that Happy Matsimbe will continue to shine brightly as Miss Pienaar 2024/25.

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Madison Taylor

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

From Childhood Pageants to Professional Modeling—A Decade of Dedication, Hard Work, and Dreams of Gracing the Pages of Vogue

#Model

Interview with Madison Taylor

A Decade of Dedication in the Modeling World

Madison Taylor, a 17-year-old from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, has spent most of her life perfecting her craft in the modeling industry. “Modeling has been my passion since I was seven,” Madison shares with a smile. Over the past decade, she has transitioned from childhood pageants to professional runway and photographic work, all while inspiring others with her dedication and drive.

Her journey began unexpectedly. “When I was seven, a family friend invited me to do a pageant with her daughter. My mom thought it would be cute, and I ended up winning my age category,” she recalls. That early victory sparked a love for modeling that has only grown stronger over the years.

In her younger years, Madison focused on pageantry, competing locally and building her confidence. Before the pandemic, she had the opportunity to do catalog work for the Lizzy brand, which was an exciting introduction to the professional side of modeling.

“In 2021, I started private photographic work and realized how much I love being in front of the camera,” she says. Her social media presence and networking skills opened doors, leading to roles as a brand ambassador for various clothing brands. Madison’s accomplishments are impressive. In 2023, she was crowned World Supermodel Preteen, a title that came after months of preparation and practice.

“The competition was held in Rustenburg, and it was an unforgettable experience filled with photo shoots, interviews, and rehearsals. The finale was a true runway experience,” she explains. Although she couldn’t represent the title in Tasmania due to her age, she reflects on the event with immense gratitude. “I was overwhelmed with joy and so thankful for everyone who helped me get there.”

Her 2024 titles of Top Model North Coast Teen and Miss North Coast KZN marked new milestones. These achievements led her to the Queen of South Africa pageant, where she placed 2nd Princess. “Miss North Coast KZN taught me what it means to be a role model.

It was a platform to give back to my community and gain valuable skills like public speaking, stage presence, and poise,” she explains. Through these experiences, she discovered that while pageantry helped her grow personally and professionally, her true passion lies in runway and photographic modeling.

Preparing for different gigs requires a tailored approach, Madison explains. “For runway, I practice my walk and follow specific grooming instructions. You need to know the brand you’re modeling for and adapt to match their aesthetic.

For photographic work, I familiarize myself with the theme and practice poses and expressions.” She emphasizes the importance of preparation, including packing her essential “model bag,” staying hydrated, and eating light but nourishing meals. Despite her success, Madison acknowledges the challenges of the modeling industry. “There’s intense competition, pressure to maintain a certain image, and constant rejection,” she admits. To overcome these hurdles, she focuses on her passion and surrounds herself with a strong support system of friends and mentors. “I celebrate small achievements and prioritize self-care to stay physically and mentally strong.”

Madison has also found joy in sharing her skills with others. “Modeling is not just about pretty faces. It’s about poise, manners, how you carry yourself, and being involved in your community,” she explains. She emphasizes discipline, confidence, and professionalism as keys to success in the industry.

Her ultimate dream? To grace the pages of Vogue magazine. “I’ve always wanted to walk in Fashion Week, but I don’t meet the height requirements. Now, my goal is to focus on photographic work and collaborate with top fashion brands, both locally and internationally.”

Madison leaves aspiring models with a powerful message: “Stay professional, humble, and true to yourself. Learn to say no, build a support network, and always be grateful for the opportunities you have.” As Madison Taylor continues her journey, her determination and love for modeling shine through every step of the way. “This industry has taught me so much, and I’m excited to keep learning, growing, and chasing my dreams.”

Zezethu Nkota Sikhothando

> *To me, beauty is about kindness, confidence, and the positive impact you have on others.*

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#Pageant

Meet Zezothando Abulele Sikota

Empowering Through Pageantry

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

Facebook: @itss.Qhondisi
Photo credit: Sjeezy Snaps

At just 17 years old, Zezothando Abulele Sikota has carved a unique path in the world of pageantry. As the 1st Runner-Up of Miss Royal Empire South Africa, her journey has been transformative, inspiring, and filled with lessons she'll carry forward. For Sikota, participating in the competition was about more than just the crown. "I saw it as a huge opportunity to boost my confidence, build my profile, and embrace my love for public speaking," she says.

Entering her first national competition brought a mix of emotions, challenges, and achievements. "Since it was my first national competition, it felt like I had achieved something huge in life," she reflects. "It made me realize I could do more, and it gave me the opportunity to inspire my peers. It was more than just an accomplishment—it was a turning point that showed me my potential."

Sikota's journey was filled with memorable moments, but the charity initiatives and speeches she delivered stood out the most. "I really enjoy helping people in need," she shares. "Using my voice and delivering those speeches was my way of helping people face reality and their problems, whether at school, back home, or anywhere else. It felt deeply personal and fulfilling." These experiences reinforced her passion for making a difference and strengthened her resolve to use her platform meaningfully.

For Sikota, being named 1st Runner-Up is not just a title; it's a responsibility and an opportunity to lead. "I want to change the world one small step at a time by using my voice and actions," she says. Her vision is clear, and her determination to bring about positive change in her community is unwavering.

While her success was remarkable, the journey wasn't without its obstacles. "The challenge I faced was dealing with people who had hate and didn't believe in me," she admits. "But I would wake up every day and tell myself that I can do it. I focused on those who love and believe in me, and that gave me the strength to keep going."

Sikota credits her family and community as her biggest inspiration and support system. "My family and community were there for me every step of the way," she says with gratitude. Their unwavering encouragement kept her motivated and reminded her of the importance of staying grounded.

Her qualities of tenacity, hard work, and leadership were key to her success in the competition. "Each of the girls competing was amazing in their own way, but these qualities helped me stand out," she says. Sikota also emphasizes the value of authenticity. "I believe you don't need to change who you are. By being yourself, you help both you and your community. It's about creating well-behaved individuals who know themselves and respect others."

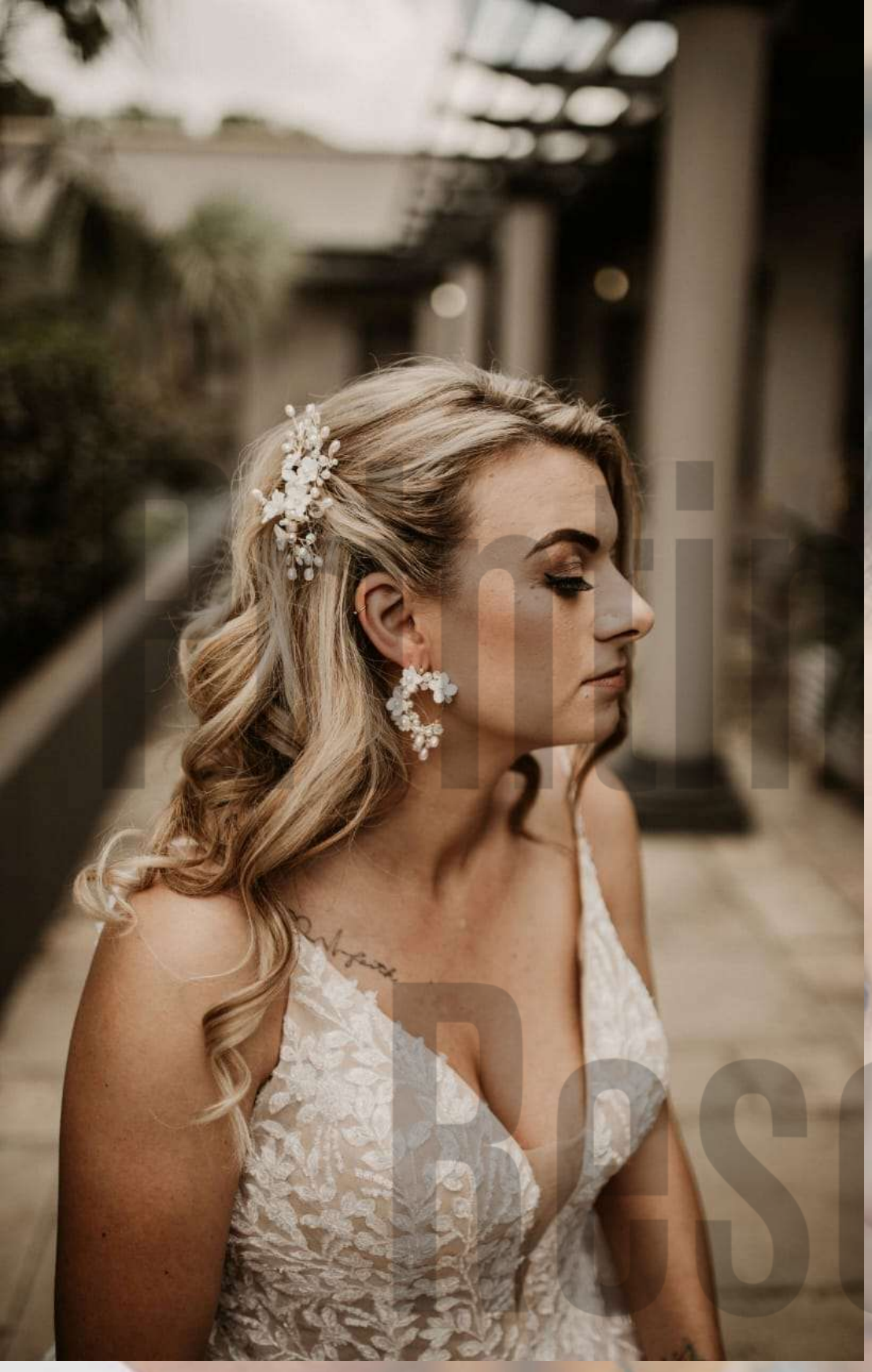
Sikota is deeply passionate about advocating for gender equality. "I believe every individual has the right to be treated equally," she explains. "Gender equality is not a zero-sum game where one gender wins, and the other loses. It's a win-win situation where we can all live in a more just and equitable society."

Her advice to aspiring pageant participants is simple yet profound. "They should join these pageants because it will teach them about life out there. It will shape you into a better person, teach you how to communicate with others, and help you learn to love and respect people," she says. Sikota believes that pageantry is about growth and creating a positive impact, both personally and in the community.

The experience of competing in Miss Royal Empire South Africa has left a lasting impact on Sikota. "It has made me a better version of myself," she says. "I've become someone who loves and respects people, someone who knows right from wrong, and someone who wants to make a difference in people's lives. It has taught me to make wiser choices and to always consider how my actions can positively affect others."

Looking to the future, Sikota dreams of continuing her journey in modeling and pageantry while pursuing her ultimate goal of changing the world. "It won't be easy, but I'm willing to try," she says with determination.

For Zezothando Abulele Sikota, the Miss Royal Empire South Africa pageant was more than just a competition. It was an opportunity to grow, inspire, and create lasting change. With her unwavering commitment to making a difference, Sikota is a young woman determined to leave a legacy of positivity and empowerment. Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance, self-belief, and the desire to uplift others.



HELLO Mooi

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

Makeup Artist Vicky van Zyl

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#Makeup

Interview with Vicky van Zyl

A Dream Turned into Beauty

When passion meets purpose, extraordinary things happen. For Vicky Van Zyl, the founder of HELLO Mooi, her journey into the world of makeup artistry was sparked by a deep love for the transformative power of makeup and a desire to help others feel beautiful. “I feel that everyone should be able to afford professional makeup for their special event,” she explains. “HELLO Mooi is my dream come true and an opportunity for every woman to gain a skill or book with me at an affordable price and be the best version of themselves.”

The name “HELLO Mooi” is more than just a brand; it’s a reflection of Vicky’s courage to let go of everything and pursue her passion. After 16 years in the corporate world, Vicky decided it was time to follow her heart. “I always loved makeup, how it made me feel, and what it can do,” she shares. Her journey began six years ago with her first makeup course in Pretoria, which sparked her passion even further. But balancing her corporate career and makeup artistry was challenging.

The turning point came during the pandemic when Vicky lost loved ones. “It made me realize life is too short to do anything that doesn’t fulfill you or make you truly happy,” she says. She made the bold decision to leave her corporate job and invest everything into her passion. With advanced training and a dedication to her craft, she has been thriving as a full-time makeup artist for the past year and a half. HELLO Mooi stands out in the competitive beauty industry for its personalized approach and focus on quality. Vicky emphasizes hygiene as a top priority, ensuring clean brushes and disposable applicators for every client. “When clients leave my studio, I want them to feel 100% satisfied,” she says.

Her affordable pricing and attention to detail set her apart, along with her commitment to blending. “Blending, blending, blending!” she says with a smile. “It’s the most important skill a makeup artist can master.” Staying inspired comes naturally to Vicky, who invests in masterclasses every six months to keep up with trends and evolving client preferences. “You can never know enough or stop learning,” she says. Her dedication to growth is matched by her ability to connect with clients.

One memorable moment she recalls is working with a particularly challenging client who had a specific vision for her wedding day. Through patience and communication, Vicky delivered a look that brought her client to tears of joy. “When you can make a difficult client happy, it’s incredibly rewarding,” she reflects.

Running HELLO Mooi hasn’t been without challenges, particularly in building a steady client base. “You need bookings to keep your business going,” Vicky explains. She tackles this challenge daily by building trust and providing exceptional service. She believes in asking questions and truly listening to her clients, ensuring their vision comes to life, whether it’s for a bridal look or a photoshoot. For aspiring makeup artists, Vicky offers honest advice: “It’s tough and expensive, but if it’s what you really want and makes you happy, put in the work and just do it.” She also stresses the importance of skincare, noting that many women neglect basic routines like using day and night cream, which impacts how their makeup looks and lasts.

Looking ahead, Vicky has exciting plans for HELLO Mooi. Her beautiful studio in Vanderbijlpark already hosts workshops on request, and she hopes to make these more frequent. “I want to help young ladies and women realize their potential and feel prettier than they already are,” she shares. Her ultimate goal is to empower others with the skills and confidence to enhance their natural beauty. HELLO Mooi is more than a business for Vicky—it’s a mission to spread confidence, beauty, and happiness. With her passion and dedication, she’s making the world a little more beautiful, one client at a time.

Masemola’s journey is a testament to the power of passion, creativity, and hard work. With Angels Nails and Beauty, she’s not just building a business; she’s building a community where beauty is about much more than appearance. It’s about self-expression, confidence, and the empowerment of every individual who steps through her doors. “Beauty is transformative,” Masemola says. “And I’m grateful for the opportunity to play a role in that transformation.”

Shanice Singh

#Pageant

Interview with Shanice Singh

Miss Grand South Africa 2025 Finalist

“I am Shanice Singh, a sports science student, soccer coach, and advocate for women empowerment and community upliftment,” she begins, her voice steady and filled with purpose. From the bustling city of Johannesburg, Shanice’s story is one of passion, growth, and a dedication to inspiring change. Her journey in pageantry is not just about beauty—it’s about using her platform to advocate for causes close to her heart.

Stepping into the world of pageantry allowed Shanice to merge her interests in sports, advocacy, and personal growth. “Pageantry has given me the opportunity to use my voice to create awareness about gender-based violence and support youth development,” she explains. For Shanice, beauty is not just about physical appearance; it’s about the strength to inspire others and uplift communities.

A finalist in Miss Grand South Africa, Shanice is determined to be a role model. “Every woman has the power to rewrite her story and rise above her challenges,” she says. Her personal brand reflects authenticity, courage, and a deep commitment to empowering others—whether on the soccer field, in a classroom, or on a pageant stage.

Shanice describes herself as driven, compassionate, and adventurous. Her ability to connect with people comes naturally, thanks to her energy and positive outlook on life. She is particularly passionate about gender-based violence awareness, emphasizing the need for safe spaces for women and girls to share their stories and seek support. Additionally, Shanice is committed to youth development and believes in creating opportunities that enable young people to thrive.

Outside of pageantry, Shanice loves traveling and exploring new cultures. “Travel enriches the soul and broadens perspectives,” she says. Her adventurous spirit shines through in her love for soccer, fitness challenges, and trying out different cuisines. She calls herself a foodie who enjoys every moment spent with family and friends. Her mother is Shanice’s greatest inspiration. “My mom’s strength, hard work, and kindness have shaped who I am today,” she shares. It is this same strength that Shanice channels into her advocacy work. She collaborates with local NGOs and initiatives focused on empowering women and youth, and she dreams of expanding these efforts in the future.

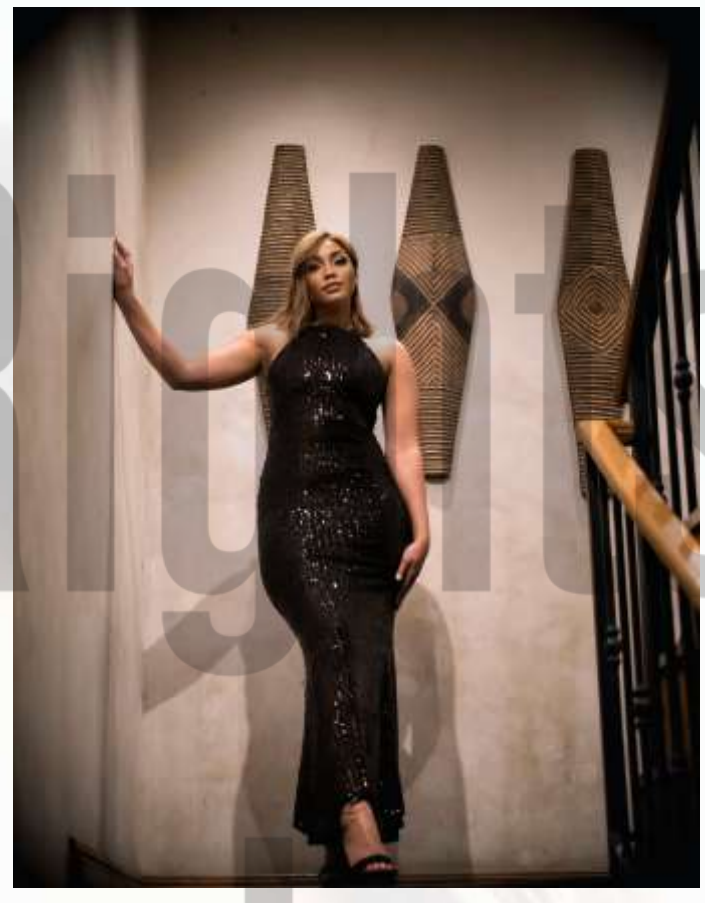
Reflecting on her contributions, Shanice is most proud of her work mentoring young girls and boys through sports. “Sports have the power to instill confidence and teach life skills,” she says. Through coaching and outreach programs, Shanice has seen firsthand the positive impact of empowering youth.

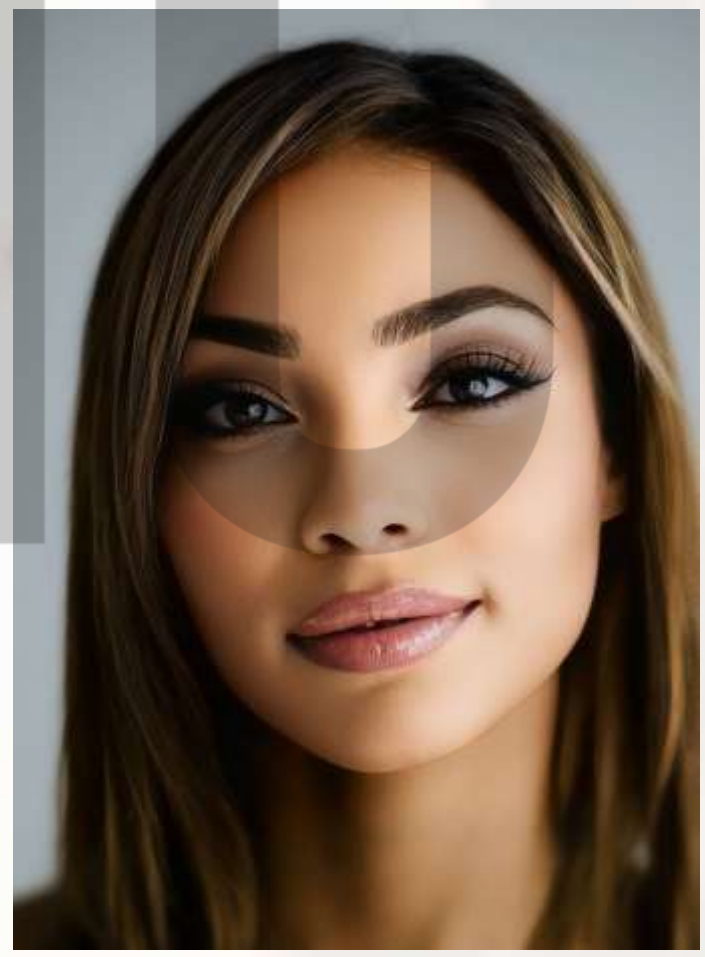
Shanice’s journey hasn’t been without its lessons. She believes in embracing every opportunity to grow and inspire. “If I could change anything, I would have started my advocacy work earlier,” she admits. “But I also believe that everything happens in its perfect time, and I’m grateful for where I am now.”

When asked about advice for first-time pageant participants, Shanice’s words are clear: “Stay true to yourself and use the platform to advocate for something meaningful. Confidence comes from within, and authenticity will always shine through.”

As her pageant journey continues, Shanice remains committed to her goal of creating lasting change. “I want to be remembered as someone who was fearless in addressing tough issues, authentic in my journey, and deeply committed to making a difference.”

You can follow Shanice’s inspiring journey on Instagram at @Neecy_s, Facebook at Shanice Singh, or TikTok at Shanicesinghh. “Let’s celebrate strength, beauty, and purpose—one step at a time,” she says with a smile. Through her work and advocacy, Shanice Singh is proving that beauty is far more than skin deep—it is a force for positive change.





#Model

Interview with Joshua Kathumba

Discipline, Faith, and Confidence

Joshua Kathumba, a name now gaining recognition in the modeling world, has walked a path of determination, challenges, and self-discovery. Reflecting on his journey, Joshua admits, “Well at first it was overwhelming not to lie, but as time went on, I became one with the thought of just doing it regardless of the end result.”

Like many newcomers in the competitive world of pageantry, Joshua faced moments of doubt. However, his mindset shifted as he realized that success comes from staying committed and putting in the work, no matter the obstacles.

For Joshua, the titles he has won aren’t just awards; they are symbols of his hard work and dedication. He explains, “These titles to me mean that I can achieve anything as long as I just add two very important ingredients: my laser-focused mind and faith. Anything is possible.” These words reveal his belief that anyone can succeed if they are determined and maintain a strong sense of self-belief.

Joshua insists that there’s no magic formula to his success, only a commitment to excellence. “Nothing was special about me, it's just that all the hard work I put into preparing for all these competitions was visible to all,” he says. His rise in the pageant world is not the result of any inherent talent alone but the visible effort he put into preparing for every challenge.

The discipline required for pageantry has permeated all aspects of Joshua’s life. “Quite well for that, I can say I know how to follow my schedule,” he states. This newfound discipline has played a crucial role in his personal growth, helping him stay organized and focused on his goals. As he looks back on his journey, Joshua acknowledges that pageantry has also boosted his confidence.

“It has made me realize the greatness I possess, and it has added confidence to my every move,” he shares. This confidence has been crucial in pushing him forward, making him a more resilient and assured individual both on and off the stage. The most defining moment for Joshua was when he was called to receive his titles. That moment of recognition marked a turning point in his journey. “The most important from all of them is being called out to receive my titles. Then that thought tends to settle in of yes, I did it,” he recalls. It was a realization that all his hard work and dedication had finally paid off. For Joshua, being awarded those titles was more than just a personal achievement; it was confirmation that he was on the right path.

Joshua’s experiences in pageantry have also taught him valuable life lessons, particularly the importance of flexibility. “What I have learned is that one has to be able to be flexible regardless of the position I’m put in,” he explains. This mindset has allowed him to adapt and thrive in an environment that can often be unpredictable and competitive.

Along the way, Joshua has spread the knowledge and wisdom he has gained, particularly to those close to him. His mother, who was his first and strongest believer, holds a special place in his journey. “Most importantly, it is my mother, because she was the first to believe in me,” he says with gratitude. Her unwavering support has been a cornerstone in his success.

Beyond the titles and accolades, Joshua has big dreams for the future. His sights are set on competing in the prestigious Mr. Africa competition, a goal that drives him to keep pushing forward. “I wish to be one of the participating models of Mr. Africa,” he reveals. His ambition and desire to continually evolve as a model reflect his commitment to success and his drive to make the most of every opportunity that comes his way.

Joshua Kathumba’s story is one of perseverance and belief in oneself. His journey has shown that success doesn’t just happen—it’s built with hard work, discipline, and an unshakable belief in your potential. From the moment he stepped into the world of pageantry, Joshua knew that this was just the beginning.

His path is a powerful reminder that anything is possible when you put your mind to it, and with the right mindset, dreams can indeed become reality.

#Pageant

Interview with Marshia Mudimo

Dreaming Big from the Heart of Cape Town

Growing up in Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in South Africa, has been nothing short of transformative for a 17-year-old student with dreams as big as the mountains that surround her. As she embarks on her Grade 11 year, her heart beats with passion, drive, and a determination to make a lasting difference in her community and beyond.

"Living here has shown me the importance of diversity and compassion," she shares. Surrounded by vibrant culture and stunning landscapes, she has found inspiration in the people and stories that make Cape Town so unique.

Books have played a big role in shaping her perspective. "I love exploring different genres," she says. "Even if a book doesn't thrill me, I value the lessons it offers." One of her reads, African Retreat, may not have captured her interest fully, but it opened her eyes to the richness of other cultures.

Creativity is at the center of her world. Singing, experimenting with recipes, and delving into art and writing are her favorite ways to unwind and express herself. "These activities allow me to relax and tap into who I am. They're part of my journey to finding my voice."

Her passion for social justice and community work runs deep. She dreams of using pageantry as a platform to inspire young women to be bold, fearless, and unapologetically themselves. "Pageantry isn't just about beauty. It's about building confidence, raising awareness about important issues, and becoming a role model for others," she explains.

Her ambitions led her to apply for Miss Cape Town Experience and online auditions with 33 and Me Talent Agency. Both platforms align with her mission to create meaningful change. "These opportunities excite me because they'll allow me to represent my community and inspire others to take action."

Her community work reflects her values. She has volunteered at charity events, helped with community gardens, and supported literacy and education initiatives. "I believe even small actions can make a big difference," she says. She's deeply committed to education, equality, and environmental sustainability, recognizing the impact these efforts can have on the world around her.

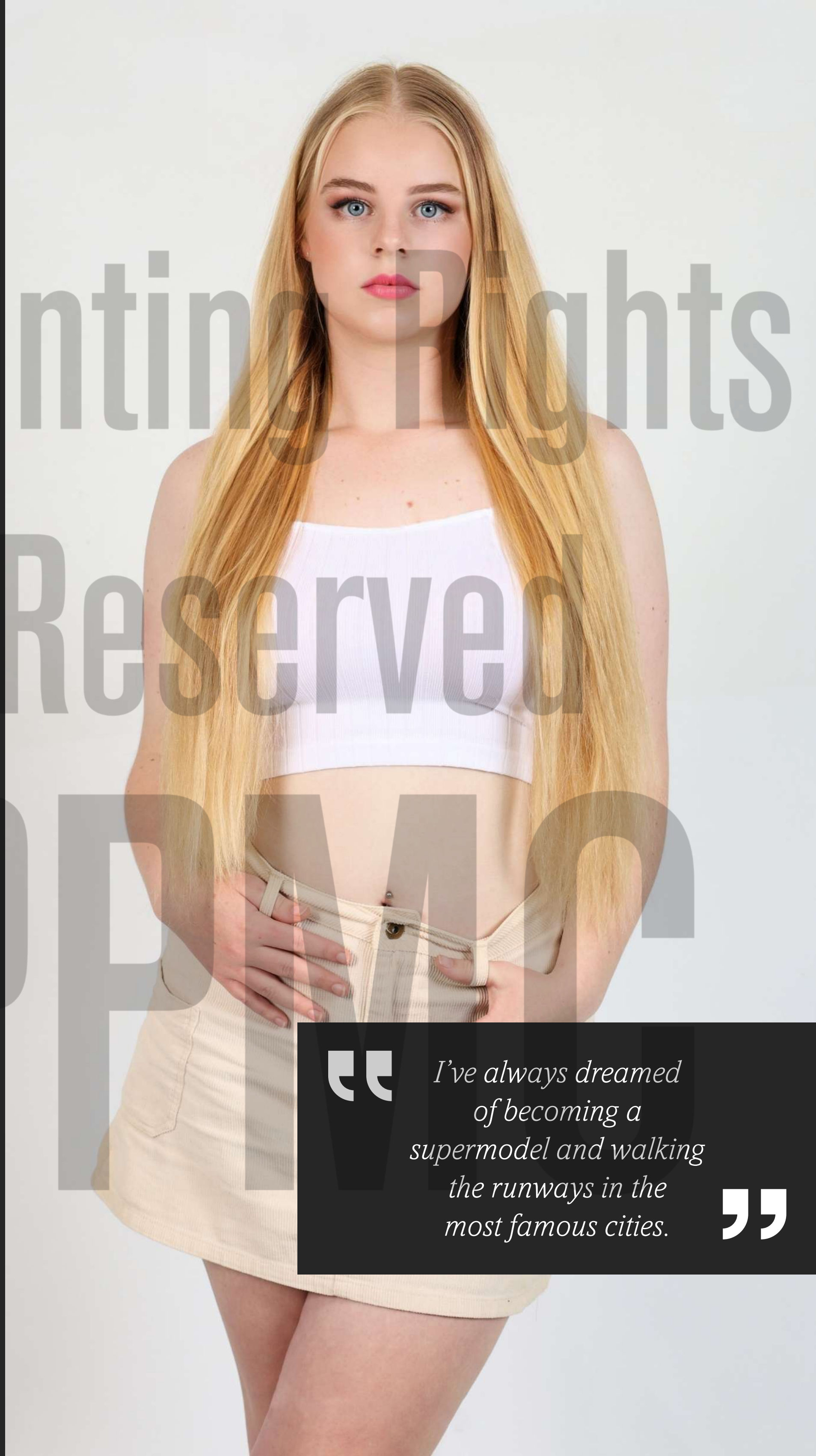
She draws inspiration from African literature, global music, and art that champions social justice. "I'm fascinated by storytelling and how words can connect people and promote empathy," she says. Writing has become one of her favorite outlets to celebrate the beauty and complexity of life while spreading messages of understanding and compassion. Her role models include Maya Angelou, Malala Yousafzai, Sakhile Dude, and Iminathi Dondolo. "I admire their courage and determination to make a difference," she says. "They've taught me to be confident and to keep going, even when the road gets tough."

Her dreams for the future are as bold as her heart. She envisions herself as a social entrepreneur, author, and inspirational speaker. "I want to make a positive impact through education, advocacy, and community development," she shares. She hopes to leave a legacy of kindness and empowerment that inspires others to be the change they want to see.

Through her journey, she's learned that success isn't just about personal achievement. "It's about how you uplift others along the way," she says. Staying true to herself, being open to new experiences, and trusting her instincts have been key lessons she carries with her.

Her message to others is simple yet powerful: "Every small action counts. Together, we can create a brighter, more compassionate world." For her, this journey is only beginning, but it's already filled with purpose, hope, and a commitment to building a better tomorrow.

Kristel Haggard



> *I've always dreamed of becoming a supermodel and walking the runways in the most famous cities.*

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#Model

Interview with Kristel Haggard

From Social Anxiety to Modeling Confidence

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

Kristel Haggard, a Port Elizabeth resident, is making strides in the modeling industry after discovering her passion for it despite the challenges she faced in her younger years. “Outside of modeling, I’m a very easygoing person and enjoy poetry. I also love spending time with family and friends,” Kristel shared. Growing up, Kristel never considered modeling as an option due to her social anxiety.

However, her first experience in front of the camera changed everything. “I never really thought about going into the modeling industry because of my social anxiety, but after trying it out for the first time, everything changed. It became closer to my heart. Now I know modeling was the piece missing in my life,” she reflected.

Kristel’s artistic side extends beyond the runway. She enjoys painting and expresses herself through poetry. “I enjoy how poetry allows me to connect with others on a deeper level as I share my experiences, thoughts, and feelings through words. It also takes away my stress and anxiety and calms me down,” she explained. Poetry has not only been an outlet for Kristel’s emotions but also a way to connect with others on a personal level.

While modeling has become a newfound passion, Kristel is also looking to expand her horizons. “My goal this year is to start my own t-shirt brand. I’m still working on all the details before starting with it,” she said. She’s determined to take her creativity beyond the runway and create something personal that will resonate with others.

For Kristel, the most important quality a model can have is confidence. “Confidence is the key to getting people to trust you, and it’s also a way of communicating with your audience. When you’re confident, you’re more likely to go for it and take risks. People are way more drawn to confident people. So, to me, confidence is the most important quality in modeling,” she stated. Confidence, in her view, is the foundation of successful modeling.

Looking ahead, Kristel has big dreams for the future. “In five years, I'd love to be known for my unique style and for doing stuff that's never been done before. I want to be a part of something bigger than just modeling. I want to push boundaries and inspire young people and the younger generation,” she shared. She envisions herself not just as a model, but as a figure who empowers and motivates others.

Kristel’s journey hasn’t been without its struggles, especially when it comes to social anxiety. “My biggest struggle is dealing with social anxiety. Sometimes it’s hard for me to speak up in groups and in front of a lot of people. I’m working on it by joining social events and group works. My family and friends are also playing a very big part in my improvement,” she revealed. Her journey toward overcoming social anxiety is ongoing, but her determination to push through is unwavering.

What Kristel enjoys most about modeling is how it reminds her of her true self. “Sometimes I have a lot of insecurities that make me feel like ‘a nothing,’ and modeling takes that away and reminds me that it’s okay to be different,” she said. Modeling has become a form of self-affirmation for her, helping her embrace her individuality and celebrate her uniqueness.

Kristel has recently signed with V-Models, and she couldn’t be happier with her choice. “I am modeling for V-Models. I recently started modeling for them and I enjoy it a lot,” she stated. V-Models has been a great fit for her, providing an environment where she can grow as a model.

When it comes to role models, Kristel draws inspiration from all female models who persevere despite their insecurities. “My role model is every female model that never gives up on their dreams and no matter how insecure they feel about themselves, they give their all to their modeling career,” she said. The dedication of these women fuels her own determination to succeed.

Kristel stays motivated by watching other models in action. “Watching other models model makes me feel motivated,” she explained. The passion and drive of others push her to stay focused on her goals.

Her life motto is simple yet powerful: “Own the stage. Make every step you take on that stage the best you ever can. Show them who you are and be yourself.” Kristel lives by this mantra and encourages others to embrace their authenticity, no matter where their journey takes them. If you’d like to connect with Kristel, you can find her on social media platforms like Instagram or Facebook. Her openness and ambition make her a model to watch, both on and off the runway.

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Miss Unique & Teen Kgatleng

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

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#Pageant

Miss Unique and Teen Kgatleng

With Otshepeng Manyako

Otshepeng Manyako speaks with pride and passion as she shares her journey as the Founder and CEO of Miss Unique and Teen Kgatleng, a beauty pageant based in Moruleng, Rustenburg. "This has been a dream of mine since 2022," she says. "I couldn't make it happen earlier because of financial challenges, but seeing it come to life now feels incredible. It's proof that 'Rome was not built in one day.'"

With a strong support system behind her, Otshepeng leads a dedicated team that includes her siblings, Ratanang Manyako (Director), Kgaugelo Manyako (Marketing Director), and Thabiso Molemane (Ambassador and Content Creator). Together, they pulled off their first annual crowning event on September 26, 2024, at Mabodisa Hall.

The event wasn't just about the glitz and glamour of the stage; it was about opportunities and rewards for the finalists. Contestants vied not only for the title but also for cash prizes—R1,000 for the Teen Queen and R1,500 for the Miss Queen. Ultimately, six titleholders were crowned, with three winners in each category (Queen, 1st Runner-Up, and 2nd Runner-Up). "This was a life-changing experience for everyone involved," Otshepeng says, reflecting on the pageant's success. She attributes much of it to their generous sponsors.

Tenancity Printers provided the finalists with branded t-shirts and gifted the titleholders branded diaries and pens. Unapologetic Ethicz Pty Ltd ensured the memories were beautifully captured with free photography and videography, while Miss Redefined South Africa sponsored the six titleholders with free entry into their 2025 pageant.

The journey doesn't stop there for the newly crowned Queens. They're preparing to represent the North West Province at a national pageant in Pretoria on April 5, 2025. The stakes are high, and the excitement is palpable. To make the trip even more memorable, the finalists will be traveling in style, courtesy of Lk Transportation and Tours, owned by Lebogang and Kagiso Kgwadi, who are providing a luxurious Mercedes Benz V-Class free of charge.

Otshepeng beams with optimism when she talks about what's ahead. "This trip is a life-changing experience for these young women. It's not just about competing—it's about growing their confidence, showing them the world beyond the dusty villages of Rustenburg, and proving that their backgrounds don't define their futures. I have so much faith in them, and I know they'll bring the crowns home."

Miss Unique and Teen Kgatleng has grown into more than just a pageant. It's a platform that empowers young women, encouraging them to dream big and believe in their potential.

"Every day, I see the brand growing," Otshepeng says with pride. "It feels surreal to think that what started as an idea has turned into something that's changing lives."

With a combination of hard work, community support, and the determination to make a difference, Otshepeng and her team have created something extraordinary.

As they look forward to the national competition in Gauteng, one thing is clear—Miss Unique and Teen Kgatleng is only just getting started.

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Michelle Anthony

#Beauty

Interview with Michelle Anthony

A Passion for Beauty and Confidence

Michelle Anthony's journey in the beauty industry began unexpectedly at a small salon in Oudtshoorn called Pampering for You. It was there that she met two inspiring women, Marina Oosthuizen and Celezna Le Roux, who invited her to join their team. "That's when it all started," she recalls. "I developed a deep fascination for nails, nail art, and makeup, which led me to pursue formal training and certification."

Now working at a salon named You're Worthy, Michelle finds immense fulfillment in her work. "The most rewarding part of my career is making people feel confident, beautiful, and worthy," she says. The relationships she builds with her clients are what truly fuel her passion. "A bond and trust are formed between myself and my clients, and that makes me always want to do my best for them."

Keeping up with the ever-evolving beauty industry is a priority for Michelle. "I follow influencers on social media, read industry blogs and magazines, and I love watching nail, makeup, and fashion videos." She believes that staying updated on trends is key to delivering the best service possible. Beyond her career, Michelle is a devoted mother. Her son Gimonro Anthony is turning 20 this year, and her daughter Miche Anthony is 16. "Teenagers, I know!" she laughs. Although she lives and works in George while her children are with their father in Oudtshoorn, she remains deeply involved in their lives.

"A mom's job never stops, even when you're apart. Balancing a demanding career requires time management, clear boundaries, a strong support system, and accepting that perfect balance may not always be achievable. Sometimes, parenting happens through the phone."

Her children have taught her the greatest lesson of all—unconditional love. "Kids love their parents even when they fail, just as parents love their children when they fall short. It's a reminder to love others as you love yourself."

Michelle's interest in beauty and fashion extends beyond her salon. "A positive environment, self-care, and boosting confidence are important to me. Sharing my knowledge about beauty and fashion can empower others to feel good about themselves and positively impact their self-esteem."

She even has aspirations of becoming a fashion designer in the future. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she designed a dress inspired by the virus, naming it the 'COVID-19 dress.' "Crazy, right?" she jokes. "Hopefully, it will be seen soon."

Being a working mother comes with its own set of challenges. "The constant juggle between work and family, the guilt of missing precious moments, and the pursuit of work-life balance can be tough," she admits. "Take one step at a time and remember that some things are out of your control. Work smarter, not harder, set boundaries, and take vacations when needed." Michelle has faced her fair share of obstacles, including intense competition, managing client expectations, and handling criticism. However, quitting has never been an option. "I always refer to myself as a Proverbs 31 woman. On my worst days, I pray, and on my best days, I pray."

Looking ahead, Michelle is excited about the future of the beauty and fashion industry. "The industry is undergoing a transformation driven by technology. I hope to be a leading innovator in sustainable and inclusive product development. I want to create personalized beauty experiences that empower people to express themselves, including fashion lines with diverse sizing and materials that cater to all body types and identities."

For Michelle, success is not just about professional achievements but also about making a difference in the lives of others. "To me, success means achieving a sense of fulfillment by reaching personal goals and positively impacting those around me."

She finds inspiration in many people, but her greatest influence has been her grandmother. "She always had a smile on her face, no matter how hard she worked. She loved everyone, was well-respected, and always gave more than she received."

Michelle believes that education is crucial for a successful career in the beauty industry. "Gain the skills you need by studying. The beauty industry is constantly evolving, so explore different course options. Quality education is the foundation of a great career."

With her passion, determination, and dedication to uplifting others, Michelle Anthony continues to leave her mark in the beauty world, one confident client at a time.

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Kesego Galaletsang Williams

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

A Mrs. Botswana Finalist Championing Gender-Based Violence Awareness, Child Protection, and Empowerment on a Global Stage

#Pageant

Kesego Galaletsang Williams

Mrs. Botswana 2025 Finalist

At 31 years old, Kesego Galaletsang Williams has already achieved so much in her life, yet her passion and drive suggest she's only just getting started. Born in Botswana and married to South African Grant Williams, Kesego is a proud mother of four and a finalist in the prestigious Mrs. Botswana 2025 pageant. If she wins, she will represent Botswana at the annual Mrs. Universe competition in the Philippines—a platform she sees as a vital opportunity to amplify her advocacy for gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection.

"My inspiration to join Mrs. Botswana came from the rising cases of deaths in Botswana due to gender-based violence. It's not just a concern—it's becoming a pandemic," she explains. "Through a platform like Mrs. Botswana, I can be part of a movement that aims to fight these issues and, hopefully, save lives."

Kesego is not new to making an impact. She is the winner of the SterStatus Season 6 Public Choice Award and a newly appointed team member for Season 7. She has also been nominated for the prestigious Woman of South Africa Award 2025, an honor she cherishes deeply. "Being nominated for this award means the world to me. It's a validation of my efforts and gives me hope that I'm on the right track," she says.

As an advocate for GBV and child protection, Kesego's work revolves around her project, "Rise Up," which focuses on empowering women and young girls affected by abuse and HIV/AIDS.

"Our motto is simple: 'Give survivors a voice but don't victim blame.' Too often, victims are judged when they speak out, which takes away their power," she explains passionately. Her project aims to tackle the root causes of abuse through education, economic support, and leadership development.

Kesego is also dedicated to addressing the systemic causes of GBV, starting with the boy child. "Childhood trauma often leads boys to become abusers as they grow up. It's a cycle that must be broken. We can't talk about women's cries without understanding what makes men abusers and how we can change that," she says. Her research has shown that many men feel unheard and unsupported, leading them to express their pain through violence. "I aim to help men heal from their own traumas so they don't perpetuate this cycle."

Her advocacy extends to protecting schoolgirls from predators and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS. She plans to visit high schools, hospitals, and work with law enforcement to reach victims directly. "Grown men are targeting schoolgirls with money and gifts, exploiting them and infecting them with HIV. It's a crisis that needs urgent attention," she adds.

Despite her many responsibilities as a wife, mother, public figure, and activist, Kesego remains grounded. "Being in the public eye while staying true to my values is easy for me because I live my life according to God's principles. I'm an introvert, and having little to no friends helps me stay focused on my goals," she says.

Kesego credits much of her personal growth to her journey with SterStatus. "Winning the public choice award and transitioning from participant to team member has been incredible. Mrs. Karin Muller and Mrs. Talana Malherbe have been such inspirational leaders. Their guidance has empowered me to take on new challenges and grow both personally and professionally," she says gratefully.

Kesego's vision for the future is ambitious and compassionate. She dreams of building shelters for abuse survivors, teenage mothers, and anyone seeking a way out of trauma. "I want to create safe spaces for those who wish to escape abuse and help teenage mothers return to school. And it's not just about women—I want to work with men to heal their childhood traumas so we can break this cycle for good."

She also hopes to leave a lasting legacy as a role model for women in Botswana and beyond. "My goal is to create a fair and equitable society where women have equal rights, opportunities, and freedom in education, employment, and leadership. Empowered women contribute significantly to the economy and innovation," she says.

For Kesego, winning Mrs. Botswana would be more than a title—it would be an opportunity to expand her reach and advocate for victims worldwide. "Representing Botswana at Mrs. Universe would allow me to bring my mission to a global stage. Win or not, my goal is to make an everlasting impact."

Kesego's message to women and young girls looking to join the fight against GBV and child protection is clear: "Go for it. There can never be enough of us. Together, we can make a difference."

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Tariq Klink

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

TK Modeling Academy

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#Modeling

Interview with Tariq Klink

TK Modeling Academy

Starting a modeling academy was never just about teaching the perfect runway walk for Tariq Klink. It was about creating a space where aspiring models could learn, grow, and develop the confidence needed to thrive in a competitive industry. As the founder of TK Modeling Academy, Klink has dedicated himself to providing quality training and mentorship to individuals who dream of making their mark in fashion and modeling.

"The founding of TK Modeling Academy stemmed from a deep passion for modeling and a desire to provide aspiring models with the right tools to succeed," he explains. "I saw a gap in quality training programs that focused not just on technical skills but also on self-confidence and emotional intelligence. I wanted to create a space where anyone, regardless of background or experience, could develop their potential and make a real impact in the industry."

Klink's journey began with his love for fashion and modeling. Over time, he noticed that many talented individuals struggled to break into the industry due to a lack of guidance and mentorship. "My inspiration came from my own experiences working with models and seeing the difference proper training can make," he says. "I started small, offering workshops and individual coaching sessions, which eventually grew into the full academy we have today.“ What sets TK Modeling Academy apart from other institutions is its holistic approach to training. "We focus on more than just teaching the basics of posing or runway walking," Klink shares. "We emphasize building strong, confident individuals who understand the business side of the industry and how to market themselves. Our training is tailored to each student's unique strengths and goals because there's no one-size-fits-all approach in modeling."

At the academy, students are equipped with key skills such as posing, runway techniques, portfolio development, and personal branding. However, Klink stresses that values like discipline, professionalism, and adaptability are just as important. "Success in modeling isn’t just about looks," he explains. "It’s about persistence and the ability to handle both the highs and lows of the industry with grace."

Staying current with fashion trends and industry standards is a priority for Klink and his team. "We stay connected with industry professionals, attend fashion shows, and collaborate with top agencies and photographers. Our instructors regularly attend workshops and events to ensure our curriculum reflects the latest trends in fashion and modeling."

For Klink, the most rewarding part of running TK Modeling Academy is witnessing the personal and professional growth of his students. "Seeing them walk into auditions with poise or land their first gigs after working so hard is truly fulfilling," he says. "It’s amazing to know that we’ve played a part in their journey."

Building the academy wasn’t without its challenges. "One of the biggest hurdles was gaining trust in a competitive industry," Klink admits. "To overcome this, we focused on building strong relationships with agents and photographers, which helped establish credibility. We also continuously improve our curriculum and student support to ensure they feel confident and ready for any challenge.“ Balancing the demands of running a business with personal life is another challenge, but Klink has found ways to manage it. "I set clear boundaries between work and downtime, and I have an amazing team who supports me," he says. "That allows me to step back when necessary and focus on my family, health, and self-care."

When asked for advice for aspiring models, Klink emphasizes patience and perseverance. "The modeling industry can be tough, with a lot of rejection, but it’s important to build a thick skin and never lose sight of your goals," he advises. "Always invest in your personal growth—modeling is just as much about attitude and mindset as it is about looks."

Diversity is a core value at TK Modeling Academy. "Each student brings their own unique perspective and potential," Klink says. "Whether they're beginners or have experience, we ensure they receive the attention and development they need to reach their full potential."

He firmly believes that modeling can be a powerful tool for self-empowerment. "Modeling teaches individuals how to embrace their bodies and unique qualities while building confidence. It’s not just about external appearance—it’s about overcoming insecurities and using the platform to inspire others."

Looking ahead, Klink has ambitious goals for TK Modeling Academy and the industry as a whole. "We aim to expand our reach globally, creating opportunities for aspiring models around the world," he says. "I also hope to see more diversity in the industry, with inclusive standards of beauty and representation."

For those looking to start their own business, Klink offers a valuable piece of advice. "Start with a clear vision, but remain flexible and open to change. Entrepreneurship is full of surprises, and adaptability is key. Surround yourself with a strong support network, and don’t be afraid to ask for help when needed.“ With passion, dedication, and a clear vision, Tariq Klink is shaping the future of modeling, one student at a time.

TK Modeling Academy is more than just a training ground—it’s a launchpad for success.

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Phumzile Tshepo Dube

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

From Shy Dreamer to Beauty with Purpose, Embracing Challenges and Triumphs in Pageantry While Advocating for Child Protection, Community Upliftment, and Inspiring Positive Change Across South Africa

#Model

Introducing Phumzile Tshepo Dube

Using Fashion and Advocacy to Empower

Phumzile Tshepo Dube's journey into the world of modeling was sparked by a deep passion for fashion, creativity, and self-expression. "Growing up, I was always fascinated by the world of fashion and the way clothes could be used to express one's personality and style," she shares. As she grew older, Phumzile discovered that modeling was not just about posing in front of a camera.

It was about owning the runway with confidence and connecting with audiences through every look. Modeling has since transformed her personal and professional life, offering her a platform to promote body positivity, self-love, and mental health awareness.

Through her experiences, Phumzile has developed valuable life skills, including public speaking, self-presentation, and most importantly, confidence. "It's also taught me the importance of self-care and self-acceptance. These are values I strive to promote through my work," she says. But it's not all glamour. Phumzile's journey has also involved stepping out of her comfort zone and overcoming challenges, including those from her own struggles with mental health.

A pivotal moment in her career came when she participated in the Mr. & Miss Soweto Beauties pageant. "I remember feeling nervous but confident as I walked onto the stage. The energy of the crowd and the support of my fellow contestants made the experience truly unforgettable," she recalls. What stood out to her the most was the camaraderie between the contestants.

"We all supported and encouraged each other, and it felt like we were all part of something bigger than ourselves." Balancing the demands of fashion, public speaking, and personal presentation is no small feat, but Phumzile has found a method that works for her.

"I focus on a well-rounded approach," she explains. "I work with a coach to improve my public speaking skills, practice my runway walk, and ensure my physical and mental health are in check." This holistic approach includes healthy eating, regular exercise, and adequate rest, all contributing to her confidence and performance.

Her passion for mental health advocacy was born from her own experiences with anxiety and depression. "Growing up, I struggled with feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem," she reveals. "This led to anxiety and depression, but through it all, I learned the importance of seeking help, self-care, and self-love." This personal journey has deeply influenced Phumzile's career. "Mental health is just as important as physical health, and seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness," she emphasizes.

Phumzile's advocacy work extends beyond personal reflection. She has completed several mental health awareness courses, gaining insight into anxiety, depression, and trauma. These courses have equipped her with the knowledge to advocate effectively. "They've given me a deeper understanding of mental health and allowed me to use my platform to reduce stigma and encourage others to seek help," she says.

Her involvement in mental health campaigns has been driven by a desire to raise awareness and change perceptions. "I hope to share the message that mental health matters, and seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness," Phumzile explains. "I also want to reduce stigma and promote mental health awareness in every way I can."

Fashion plays an essential role in Phumzile's life, serving as a tool for self-expression. "I use fashion to express my personality and values," she says. "It's a way to communicate without saying a word. I wear clothes that reflect my confidence, individuality, and passion for social causes." For her, every outfit is an extension of her identity and beliefs.

When it comes to addressing sensitive topics like mental health, Phumzile approaches her speeches with empathy, understanding, and compassion. "I create a safe and supportive environment where people feel comfortable sharing their experiences," she says. "I use inclusive, non-judgmental language to ensure that everyone feels respected and valued." This approach helps her reach diverse audiences and deliver messages with impact.

However, advocating for mental health has not been without its challenges. "I've faced stigma, lack of resources, and even skepticism," she admits. Yet, she has learned to overcome these obstacles by seeking support from professionals, collaborating with mental health organizations, and building a community of like-minded advocates.

Phumzile believes that mental health awareness and self-confidence are deeply intertwined, especially in the modeling and pageantry industries. "The pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards can be tough, but promoting mental health awareness helps individuals develop a more positive relationship with themselves," she says. This, in turn, can lead to increased self-confidence and a healthier body image, crucial for models and pageant contestants alike.

For aspiring models or pageant contestants who want to incorporate advocacy into their platforms, Phumzile offers this advice: "Identify your passion and purpose, and use your platform to make a positive impact. Be authentic, courageous, and committed to creating change. Don't be discouraged by setbacks, and remember, advocacy is an ongoing process." She emphasizes the importance of consistency, patience, and the support of others in creating lasting change.

Looking ahead, Phumzile aims to continue using her platform to promote mental health awareness, reduce stigma, and encourage others to seek help. "I hope to expand my advocacy work to include other causes, like body positivity and self-acceptance," she concludes, with a determined smile.

With her passion and vision, Phumzile is determined to make a lasting impact in both the fashion and mental health advocacy worlds.

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Rentia Moll

#Model

Interview with Rentia Moll

Rising from the Ashes

In 2020, Rentia Moll's life changed in ways she never imagined. As the world faced isolation, her personal world crumbled. Her marriage ended, and in an instant, her children and husband were no longer a part of her daily life. With nowhere to go, she found refuge in Jeffreys Bay with her parents.

"Despite their support, the pain was unbearable. I felt lost and overwhelmed," she says. Some days, she would sit for hours, staring into nothing, searching for stories of women who had survived divorce. But at the time, hope felt like something out of reach.

When she returned to Johannesburg, she found shelter at a guest house called Annie's Place, where she met Antoinette, the owner. "She told me it would take three years to heal. I thought I wouldn't survive the pain for that long, but her kindness gave me strength."

In December 2020, Rentia faced another heartbreak. Her manager, mentor, and friend, Pieter Potgieter, passed away. "My professional world collapsed around me. I tried everything—therapy, work—but nothing helped. Every night, I cried myself to sleep, convinced I had failed as a mother and a woman." Desperate to lift herself up, she took a bold step and booked a boudoir photo shoot with Leanne Voster. "It terrified me, but it changed something within me. When I saw the photos, I felt something I hadn't in a long time—I felt less worthless."

That shoot became a turning point. She started getting up every morning, dressing up, and putting on makeup, even if she had nowhere to go. It gave her purpose.

In July 2021, Rentia and Antoinette both contracted COVID-19. Rentia developed a blood clot in her lungs, but it dissolved on its own. Antoinette wasn't as fortunate, spending three months on oxygen. "We held onto the prayers of our loved ones, and we both recovered."

A year after her divorce, Rentia found a lump in her neck. "Deep down, I knew something was wrong." Despite inconclusive tests, she trusted her instincts and pushed to have her thyroid removed. The surgery was scheduled just days after her grandmother broke her hip. "I wanted to postpone it, but my mother insisted I go through with it."

Her grandmother passed away the day after her surgery. "I was devastated. I blamed myself for not being there, even though I knew there was nothing I could have done." A week later, her oncologist confirmed her worst fear—cancer. "I tried to prepare myself, but hearing the word still felt like the world had stopped." The months that followed were filled with treatments and hospital visits, but she was surrounded by love. "My family, friends, and Antoinette's family lifted me up when I couldn't stand on my own."

Photography became her therapy. "My body had changed so much, but my photographer friend helped me see beyond the physical. Photo shoots gave me something to look forward to."

One friend played a huge role in her recovery. "She walked with me every weekend. If I only had 100 steps in me, we'd walk in a mall until I couldn't take another step. She never let me give up."

Eight months ago, a friend entered her into the Mrs. Opulent 2024 modeling competition. "I was terrified, but I started weight training, and the transformation was incredible." Pieter, her biggest supporter, kept her motivated. "I wanted to quit, but he encouraged me and gave me hope to keep going. I didn't win, but I gained so much more."

Today, Rentia is three years cancer-free. Every September 14th, she marks the occasion with a photo shoot. "It's my way of honoring how far I've come. I wake up every day grateful for my health and the people who carried me through my darkest moments."

Her message to anyone facing challenges? "You don't have to go through it alone. Lean on those around you, find your passions, and don't lose hope. Life may knock you down, but there's always a way forward. You just have to take it one step at a time."

For those battling cancer, Rentia recommends reading Aarde Tyd is Genade Tyd by Jana du Plessis. "Every time I read it, I find another reason to stay strong."

Through everything, Rentia has learned that strength isn't just about surviving—it's about rediscovering yourself, finding joy in small victories, and allowing yourself to heal. "Modelling has helped me see myself as more than just someone who battled cancer. It's my way of celebrating life, one photo at a time."

Photo credits:
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Makeup: @willembothabeauty
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Owam Msutu

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

Embracing Confidence, Creativity, and Determination - The Inspiring Journey of 15-Year-Old Model, Musician, and Artist Owam Msutu

#Pageant

Interview with Owam Msutu
Ambassador and Philanthropist

A story by:
Etaiya
Briscoe

"No matter how you feel, get dressed up and show up." That's the life motto of 15-year-old Owam Msutu, a Grade 10 student who has embraced her journey with confidence, creativity, and determination. In her own words, she is a perfectionist and an overachiever, constantly setting high standards and pushing herself to new heights.

"I believe in being the best version of myself," Owam says, her enthusiasm shining through. She describes herself as energetic, empathetic, and authentic, qualities that have helped her thrive in the modeling world. Confidence, she explains, has been the cornerstone of her success.

"Confidence is key for a pageant model. It's what enables you to own the stage, showcase your personality, and communicate your message effectively." For Owam, confidence is about more than just stage presence; it's the ability to connect with others, articulate her thoughts, and leave a lasting impression.

While Owam is thriving, her journey hasn't been without challenges. "My greatest weakness is comparing myself to others," she admits. "It's left me feeling intimidated and uncertain at times." But she's learned to overcome this mindset by focusing on her own progress and celebrating small victories.

"I've surrounded myself with positive influences and affirmations that remind me my worth comes from within. Shifting my focus inward has helped me embrace my individuality and unlock my potential." Although Owam's modeling career began only in September 2023, her rise has been impressive. Starting with local pageants, she honed her skills before advancing to provincial competitions and now enters national pageants. Her growing list of titles reflects her dedication and growth in a competitive field.

But modeling isn't Owam's only passion. A talented guitarist, she finds comfort in the music she creates. "The guitar allows me to express emotions, tell stories, and connect with others on a deeper level," she shares. Her artistic side also shines through sketching and drawing, outlets that fuel her creativity. "Music and art have the power to bring people together, inspire change, and provide a healthy escape from everyday stress."

Owam's life is a delicate balance of ambition and self-discovery. She dedicates time to improving herself, both as a model and as an individual. "Every step I take is an opportunity to grow," she explains. "Whether it's on stage or off, I'm always looking for ways to better myself and make a difference." Her journey has also taught her the importance of perseverance and self-belief. She often reflects on how far she has come since her early days, recognizing that her determination and positive mindset have been vital to her achievements.

Beyond her personal pursuits, Owam hopes to inspire others, especially young people, to follow their dreams. She believes that embracing your unique qualities and staying true to yourself are the keys to success. "Everyone has something special to offer," she says. "When you believe in yourself, anything is possible."

Through all her pursuits, Owam remains grounded and self-aware. She continues to strive for excellence while learning to embrace her unique strengths. "I'm excited to share my journey with the world and to keep growing as a person and a model," she says, her confidence evident in every word.

With her commitment to authenticity and a growing repertoire of skills and achievements, Owam Msutu is undoubtedly someone to watch in the world of modeling and beyond.

#Pageant

Interview with Brenda Phiri

A Beauty with a Purpose

A story by:
Etaiya
Briscoe

At just 21 years old, Brenda Phiri from Letlhabile in the North West Province is proving that beauty pageants can be more than just glamour and gowns. As a titleholder of Beauty with a Purpose from the Face of Brits pageant, Brenda sees modeling as a platform to inspire and create meaningful change.

"Growing up, I was always drawn to the idea of using my voice to advocate for important causes," Brenda shares. "I saw beauty pageants as a powerful way to highlight issues I care about, like environmental sustainability and women's empowerment."

Her journey began with a passion for fashion and self-presentation but evolved into something deeper. Brenda describes how strong, confident women in the industry motivated her to take on the responsibility of using her platform for good.

For Brenda, modeling is more than posing for cameras. It's about telling stories, promoting positive body representation, and encouraging young people to embrace their uniqueness. "I want to inspire others to feel confident in their skin and pursue their dreams unapologetically," she explains. Her ambitions include landing campaigns for brands that align with her values and raising awareness about social causes close to her heart.

The journey hasn't been without its challenges. Like many aspiring models, Brenda has faced issues around body image, unrealistic beauty standards, and the pressures of competition. "It's easy to fall into the trap of comparing yourself to others," she admits. However, she has learned to overcome these hurdles by focusing on self-care, staying organized, and surrounding herself with a supportive network.

Brenda credits her success in part to the training she received during the Face of Brits pageant. "They taught us how to introduce ourselves on stage, strike confident poses, and embrace who we are. I also learned how to handle interviews and charity work, which is an essential part of being a Beauty with a Purpose titleholder." Brenda's work included volunteering and even participating in a radio interview at Ga-Rankuwa to share her journey and inspire others.

Her role model, Miss South Africa 2023 Natasha Joubert, serves as a constant source of inspiration. "Natasha promotes self-acceptance and body positivity," Brenda says. "She's a reminder to all of us that our unique features are what make us beautiful."

Brenda's approach to her personal style is a reflection of her authenticity. "I try to express my true personality, values, and cultural heritage through what I wear. It's important to stay true to yourself," she says. Her fitness routine also reflects her commitment to a balanced lifestyle, incorporating strength training, stretching, and mindfulness practices to stay physically and mentally healthy.

Social media has played a pivotal role in Brenda's career. Platforms like Facebook and TikTok allow her to connect with a global audience, showcase her work, and build a community. "It's important to be authentic and engage with your audience. Social media is a tool, but you also have to set boundaries to protect your mental health," she advises.

Looking to the future, Brenda aims to build a strong portfolio, work with reputable agencies, and explore diverse modeling opportunities. She is determined to maintain a balance between her career, education, and personal relationships while giving back to her community.

Brenda's message to aspiring models and young people is simple yet powerful: "Believe in yourself, trust your abilities, and recognize your worth.

Stay curious, keep learning, and always practice empathy and respect toward others." Follow Brenda's journey on Facebook (Brenda Phiri Beauty with a Purpose Finalist 2023) and TikTok (@BrendaPhiri), where she continues to inspire others with her passion, purpose, and authenticity.

#Model

Meet Kwakhanya Zweni

A Young Talent With Big Dreams

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

At just 17 years old, Kwakhanya Zweni is already making waves as a leader, role model, and budding star in the modeling industry. Born and raised in Gqeberha, Kwakhanya is a Grade 12 learner at Bonzai High School and was recently appointed Head Girl for 2025—a role she embraces with pride and determination.

"Being Head Girl in high school is completely different from being Head Girl at Swartkops Primary," Kwakhanya shares. "In primary school, it was easier to set boundaries with younger minds. High school is more challenging because you're dealing with students who are experiencing mood changes and strong emotions. But I've learned that respect and patience are key. By showing respect, I've earned respect in return."

Kwakhanya's leadership journey is deeply intertwined with her passion for modeling, which she started in 2020. Surviving bullying in Grade 6 pushed her to regain her confidence, and modeling became her outlet. "Modeling helped me regain my self-esteem, improve my public speaking, and articulate myself better. It's been an amazing journey of growth."

Her achievements in modeling are nothing short of impressive. Kwakhanya's first taste of victory came in 2022 when she won Mr. and Miss Photogenic Public Choice and First Princess titles. But the highlight of her career so far was winning Miss Dare to Dream 2023. "It was my first big title, and I was the first girl in my modeling foundation to bring that crown home. It even led to my first TV appearance, which was an unforgettable moment."

Kwakhanya's other accolades include being crowned Model of the Year 2023 and Face of Devotion Eastern Cape Teen Overall Winner 2024, one of the most prestigious titles in her modeling career. "These experiences have taught me that everyone's success happens at different times.

Another person's success shouldn't intimidate you; it should motivate you to keep going." Balancing her responsibilities as a student, Head Girl, and model is no small feat. "During school, I focus on my studies and fulfill my duties during breaks. Weekends are for modeling rehearsals and pageant commitments. It's not always easy, but time management and prioritizing 'me-time' are essential."

Kwakhanya's leadership and modeling pursuits share a common goal: to inspire young girls to dream big and work hard. "A dream is a picture of possibility," she explains. "It requires passion, dedication, and hard work to make it a reality. Challenges will come, but they're there to teach us lessons and instill values like patience, discipline, and compassion."

Her feminist mindset drives her to advocate for inclusivity and empowerment. "I want young girls to see their future selves through me. I aim to break generational curses and cement my name in history books. Leadership shouldn't be feared—it should be embraced."

Looking to the future, Kwakhanya has big dreams. In modeling, she aspires to become a commercial model and brand ambassador for global brands like Dove, Garnier, Mercedes-Benz, and Nike. She also aims to conquer the pageant world by winning titles like Miss SA, Miss Universe, and Miss World, making South Africa a top contender in the Big Four pageants.

Beyond modeling, Kwakhanya plans to become a clinical psychologist, a philanthropist, and a hemophilia ambassador. "Modeling has taught me to be self-aware, assertive, and confident. It's also instilled values that make me a better leader, such as tolerance and understanding that our differences make us unique."

Kwakhanya's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and passion. Her message to others is clear: "Every success story has its trials, but with dedication and hard work, dreams can become reality."

With her ambition and determination, Kwakhanya Zweni is undoubtedly a name to watch in the worlds of leadership and modeling.

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Masemola Boiketlo

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

How 25-Year-Old Masemola Boiketlo Built Angels Nails and Beauty into a Thriving Hub of Confidence, Creativity, and Empowerment

#Makeup

Interview with Masemola Boiketlo

Founder of Angels Nails and Beauty

At just 25 years old, Masemola Boiketlo has turned her passion for beauty into a thriving business. With her salon, Angels Nails and Beauty, she aims to offer more than just top-tier nail services. “I wanted to create a space where people could feel pampered, valued, and beautiful,” she says. A self-taught nail technician, Masemola's journey into the beauty industry began with a love for experimenting with nail art and makeup on her friends and family. This early passion eventually grew into a mission to help others feel confident and empowered through beauty.

Masemola’s approach to beauty is deeply personal. “Beauty is not just about aesthetics; it’s about confidence and self-expression,” she explains. She noticed a gap in her local market for a salon that combined high-quality services with a welcoming atmosphere, and it inspired her to take the leap into entrepreneurship. Starting her own business, however, came with its challenges.

“One of the biggest obstacles was mastering the technical skills needed for nail art and manicures,” she recalls. Without formal training, Masemola relied heavily on online tutorials and videos to refine her techniques. “I dedicated time each week to practice, and I connected with other self-taught technicians for feedback and support,” she says. Attracting clients initially proved to be a struggle.

“Many people prefer established salons, and it was difficult to convince them to try my services,” she admits. But through perseverance, Masemola found a way to overcome these challenges. Social media became her most powerful tool. By showcasing her designs online and offering promotions for first-time customers, she began to build a loyal client base. “I also reached out to family and friends to spread the word,” she says. Over time, the steady flow of new clients, combined with positive word-of-mouth, allowed her business to flourish.

At Angels Nails and Beauty, Masemola emphasizes providing exceptional service and creating a positive, inclusive environment. “Our mission is to enhance our clients’ natural beauty and boost their confidence,” she says. By offering premium products and personalized care, the salon has become a place where clients feel valued and pampered. “We strive to exceed expectations and foster lasting relationships with everyone who walks through our doors,” she adds.

Masemola’s success can be attributed to her creative mindset and dedication to her craft. “Both makeup artistry and nail design are forms of art,” she explains. “Creativity allows us to express our individuality and transform clients’ visions into reality.” Whether it’s creating unique nail art or offering personalized makeup looks for special occasions, Masemola’s focus on creativity has helped her stand out in a competitive industry. “Every client has their own preferences and features, and creativity helps me make them feel special,” she says.

The beauty industry is always evolving, and Masemola knows the importance of staying updated on new trends and techniques. “I follow beauty influencers on social media and regularly read industry blogs and magazines to keep up with emerging styles,” she says. Platforms like Instagram and YouTube have been valuable resources for learning new skills and discovering fresh ideas. She also emphasizes the importance of continuous education in the beauty world. “I make sure to take courses and attend workshops to refine my skills,” she says.

Building a business in the beauty industry requires more than just talent—it takes organization and a clear vision for growth. “I’ve been working on establishing a more prominent online presence and considering expanding to a new location,” Masemola says. To balance her hands-on work with her responsibilities as a business owner, she uses tools like time-blocking and to-do lists to manage her time effectively. “It’s important to delegate tasks to my team so I can focus on what I love doing—working with clients,” she explains.

Looking ahead, Masemola is excited about the future of Angels Nails and Beauty. “We want to inspire a culture of inclusivity and positivity,” she says. She dreams of becoming a leading destination for beauty and self-care in her community, offering specialized services like eco-friendly beauty options and advanced nail techniques. Her ultimate goal is to help clients express their unique beauty and promote self-love through her services.

For Masemola, the beauty industry is more than just a business—it’s a chance to make a real difference in people’s lives. “I had a client who came in for a makeup application and nail service for a job interview,” she recalls. “She was nervous and lacked confidence, but after our session, she left feeling empowered. She got the job, and more importantly, she felt better about herself.” Masemola takes pride in knowing that her work goes beyond the surface—it boosts her clients’ self-esteem and helps them feel confident in their own skin.

Masemola’s journey is a testament to the power of passion, creativity, and hard work. With Angels Nails and Beauty, she’s not just building a business; she’s building a community where beauty is about much more than appearance. It’s about self-expression, confidence, and the empowerment of every individual who steps through her doors. “Beauty is transformative,” Masemola says. “And I’m grateful for the opportunity to play a role in that transformation.”

Reserved

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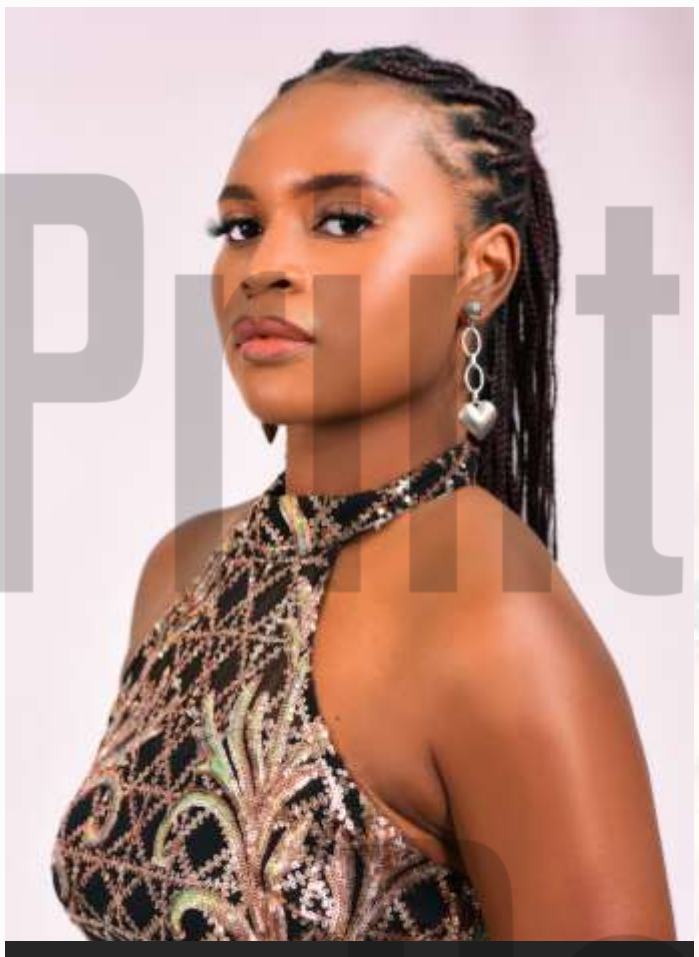
Yolanda Zukula

#Pageant

Interview with Yolanda Zukula

A Queen with a Purpose



Instagram: @YolandaZukula
Facebook: Yolanda Zukula
LinkedIn: Yolanda Zukula

Yolanda Zukula's journey in pageantry is one of passion, determination, and a deep commitment to making a difference. Competing in Mrs. Mayfield Square and Mrs. Soweto was a natural step in a career that began years ago. "My passion for modeling and pageantry started when I was young," she says.

"I've had the honor of representing my community and school in various competitions, including being crowned Miss Daveyton Personality, Miss Hulwazi, and Miss Secondary. These experiences inspired me to take on bigger stages where I could continue to use my voice and platform to make a difference."

Being crowned 1st Princess at Mrs. Mayfield Square 2023 was a moment of pride and validation. "It reflected years of hard work, determination, and belief in myself. It also affirmed the power of representation, motivating me to keep growing and inspiring others," Yolanda shares. Now, as a finalist for Mrs. Soweto 2024/25, she continues to evolve. "This journey has taught me to be humble, to heal from my past, and to embrace every part of who I am. I've learned to value my strengths and see the beauty in lifting others as I climb."

Preparing for pageants is a meticulous process that involves more than just the stage. "My preparation involves prayer, which centers me and allows God to guide me. I also focus on physical training, wardrobe preparation, and practicing my walk and interviews," she explains. "What I enjoy most is the self-discovery and connecting with other contestants who share the same passion and drive."

Yolanda recently joined DJ's agency, a decision she believes will elevate her career. "I'm still new to the agency, but I'm optimistic about the journey ahead. They've already started shaping my confidence and refining my skills. I'm excited about the opportunities to grow, network, and expand my presence in the industry."

Challenges are part of any journey, and Yolanda has faced her share. "One of the biggest challenges has been not winning some pageants, which can lead to moments of self-doubt," she admits. "However, my mother has always been there to lift me up, remind me of my worth, and encourage me to keep going. Her unwavering support has been my strength in overcoming setbacks."

Outside of pageantry, Yolanda enjoys cooking, motivational speaking, and giving back to the community. "These hobbies allow me to express my creativity, connect with people, and create a positive impact. They shape me into a well-rounded individual who values both personal growth and helping others."

What sets her apart in the Mrs. Soweto competition is her authenticity and commitment to positive change. "I bring years of experience in pageantry, a unique perspective as a mother and professional, and a genuine passion for empowering others."

Through her platform, Yolanda advocates for community development, focusing on empowering women and children. "I want to address issues such as healing, respect, confidence, and consistent education. Mentorship is also important to me. I want to create initiatives that uplift and inspire my community." Balancing pageantry with personal and professional commitments is not always easy, but Yolanda manages it with careful planning. "My family, especially my husband and children, are my biggest supporters, and their involvement helps me manage everything. Staying organized and maintaining a clear vision of my goals keeps me grounded."

When asked about her biggest supporter, Yolanda does not hesitate. "My mother has been my rock since the beginning. She has been my cheerleader, my motivator, and my guide through every step of this journey. I'm also grateful to my manager, makeup artist, and hairdresser, who always encourage me and ensure I feel confident before stepping on stage. And of course, my husband, who always goes with me whenever I take part."

For Yolanda, success is about impact. "As a pageant contestant, it's inspiring others and using my platform to drive change. In my personal life, it's about being a loving mother, a supportive wife, and a role model for my community."

"I would advocate for women's empowerment and create initiatives focused on education, mentorship, and entrepreneurship. By collaborating with local organizations and hosting events, I aim to uplift my community and leave a legacy of hope."

Beyond pageantry, Yolanda is also stepping into the business world. "I recently registered a company called Yoli's Wine. It's not running yet, but it's still blooming." With her passion and determination, there is no doubt that Yolanda will continue to grow, inspire, and make a lasting impact.

Property of PPMC Magazine

Kellogg Evin Opperman

Street style suits me best. I love wearing stylish hoodies or cargo pants.

#Talent

Introducing Kellan Evin Oppert

From Hip Hop to High Fashion

A story by:
Etaiya Briscoe

Kellan Evin Oppert, the youngest of three brothers, has taken a path no one else in his family has ventured before. While his siblings pursued other interests, Kellan has embraced the world of modeling, a journey that began in early 2024. Interestingly, it wasn't modeling that sparked his passion but his love for Hip Hop dancing, which he's been dedicated to for over five years.

"Through Hip Hop, I met my modeling coach, Llewellyn, who encouraged me to try modeling," Kellan shares. "No one in my family has done modeling before, so it wasn't something I ever considered."

Since stepping into the modeling world, Kellan has set his sights high. "Long-term, I want to become a brand ambassador for a major clothing brand like Nike," he says with determination. But his journey hasn't been without challenges. A naturally shy person, Kellan admits that modeling has helped him step out of his shell. "Participating in shows has taught me to talk to new people and boosted my confidence in front of an audience," he explains.

One of his proudest moments came when he competed in the 2024 South African Championship of Performing Arts (SACOPA). Representing the Eastern Cape in both modeling and Hip Hop, he walked away with three gold medals, earning a spot on Team South Africa for the 2025 World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA). "That was my first major competition, and it was an incredible experience," Kellan says. Unlike many models who grow up idolizing industry icons, Kellan's role model is closer to home. "My modeling coach has been with me every step of the way. He's inspired me to grow, instilled confidence in me, and taught me the importance of self-expression," he says gratefully.

Kellan's modeling foundation was built at the Supreme Modeling Academy, where he joined in 2024. "I've learned essential techniques like walking, timing, and posing. It's also helped me be more confident and less nervous in front of people," he explains. The academy has emphasized not just technical skills but the importance of enjoying the process. "The key is to have fun," he adds.

When it comes to personal style, Kellan keeps it laid-back yet fashionable. "Street style suits me best. I love wearing stylish hoodies or cargo pants, but I also enjoy dressing up in formal attire like suits," he shares. Beyond fashion, fitness is a priority for Kellan. "I go to the gym as often as I can with friends and family.

I also play sports at school, especially water polo, and Hip Hop dancing helps with strength and flexibility," he says. Networking is another aspect of the industry that Kellan values. "It's important to connect with people locally and internationally. SACOPA was a great way to meet other models who've gone on to compete on global stages," he notes. Social media has also played a role in his journey. While his academy's social media accounts showcase his work, Kellan uses his personal account to connect with industry professionals and follow his favorite brands.

For aspiring models, Kellan's advice is simple yet profound: "Just be yourself and have fun. Embrace your uniqueness and let your true self shine. It's our differences that make us beautiful."

Looking ahead, Kellan is focused on growth. "I want to take every opportunity to learn and become the best version of myself," he says. His ultimate goal is to pay it forward. "One day, I hope to inspire someone starting out in modeling, just like my coach inspired me. I want someone to look at me and say, 'I want to be like that.'"

Kellan's message to those who look up to him is heartfelt: "Everyone's journey is unique, but you don't have to do it alone. Always ask for advice when you need it. This is a community." With his drive, humility, and passion, Kellan Evin Oppert is undoubtedly a name to watch in the modeling world.

Supreme Modelling Academy
Tamlyn Delponte Photography

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Ayazingca Tukushe

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

The 16-Year-Old Miss Royal Empire SA 2024 Championing Youth Empowerment, Overcoming Challenges, and Using Modeling as a Platform for Social Change

#Pageant

Interview with Ayazingca Tukushe

A Queen with a Mission to Empower

A story by:
Etaiya
Briscoe

At just 16 years old, Ayazingca Tukushe from East London, Eastern Cape, is already proving that age is no barrier to making a meaningful difference. Crowned Miss Royal Empire South Africa 2024 Senior Queen and public choice winner on December 7, 2024, in Johannesburg, Aya, as she is affectionately known, embodies confidence, determination, and a deep sense of purpose. “If this world would toss a coin and it landed on me, I wouldn’t change a thing. I’m already who I want to be and what I want to be,” she shares with a calm self-assurance that is inspiring for someone so young.

Aya grew up in a world full of judgments and dismissals, experiences that could have held her back. Instead, they became the foundation for her strength. “I will never ever walk in anyone’s shadows,” she declares, a statement that has become her guiding light.

Over time, she developed her motto: I am different, and I want to make a difference—not a difference that sets me apart, but one that uplifts and empowers youth at large. This belief has shaped not only her identity but also her approach to life, modeling, and her vision for the future.

Interestingly, Aya’s journey into modeling was not a lifelong dream. “Modeling wasn’t always my thing,” she admits with a smile. “But one local competition made me fall in love with it in an unspeakable way.” That single event sparked a passion that has since grown into something much bigger than herself.

Aya realized that modeling was more than a stage—it was a platform. “Taking a look at how the world is going, there are so many unspoken topics that should be brought to the table to make a positive change. That’s what inspired me to join modeling. It’s a way to send a message across different crowds, to raise awareness about important social issues.”

Aya is driven by two clear goals. “First, I want to speak with a well-known government figure about making a difference that uplifts the world without creating divides,” she explains passionately. “Second, I want to secure sponsorships so I can start campaigns, like #BeingDifferentShouldn’tStopYou FromMakingADifference.” These goals reflect her determination to use her platform not for personal gain but to inspire and empower others.

But the road to success hasn’t been easy. Aya speaks candidly about the challenges she has faced, including a lack of emotional and financial support from those who encouraged her to pursue pageantry. “One of the hardest things has been hearing people say, ‘You should join a pageant,’ but then they don’t support me emotionally or financially once I’ve entered.

It’s draining when people can clap their hands and say congratulations without understanding the hardship that came before the win,” she says. Despite this, Aya has learned to persevere. “Not everyone is going to be my rain while I’m a seed, but they will always reap the fruits. I’ve learned that it’s okay to do what I love, with or without support, as long as I stay true to myself.”

Aya credits her mother as her greatest inspiration. “I’ve never had a well-known role model because my mom has always been enough,” she says with deep admiration. “She struggled but never gave up, always wanting the best for me and my brother. Even though she sometimes forgets she’s human and needs time for herself, she taught me that helping others without making them feel less is a huge factor in making a difference. That’s influenced me in everything I do.”

Despite her accomplishments, Aya remains grounded and approachable. “I’ve always been humble and shy, but I have a bubbly personality that makes it easy for me to adapt to any environment,” she says. This adaptability has been a key asset in her modeling journey, allowing her to connect with people from all walks of life.

“I’m easygoing and fun to be around, which helps me talk to different types of people and build relationships that matter.”

Aya also has a practical approach to health and wellness. “I’ve never had a strict fitness routine,” she confesses with a laugh. “I just made sure to eat balanced meals at least three times a week, walk from home to school, and drink lots of water. Water cleanses the system, and even though I don’t like hospitals, I do regular checkups to stay healthy.”

Social media and networking have played a significant role in her success. “My modeling pages under the name Model Aya Tukushe have helped spread the word about me as an upcoming model,” she explains. “Networking is also important. It helps you meet people from different departments and understand their energy. The key is making people feel comfortable so they know they’re talking to someone responsible.”

Aya’s dreams extend far beyond the stage. “I want to become an accountant and an upcoming philanthropist,” she reveals. “I also want to open a free modeling school for underprivileged kids, providing opportunities for those who wouldn’t otherwise have them.” Her vision is not just about personal success but creating pathways for others to achieve their own.

Her advice to others entering the modeling industry is simple but powerful: “The industry isn’t easy, but don’t lose yourself trying to fit in or stand out. Take in what’s good for you, leave the rest, and always remember: it’s not about winning. It’s about learning, having fun, and discovering more about yourself.”

With her determination, compassion, and vision, Ayazingca Tukushe is more than just a queen—she’s a force for change and a beacon of hope for the youth of South Africa. As she continues her journey, there’s no doubt she will leave a lasting impact, one that uplifts and empowers others to believe in their own ability to make a difference.

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Rosie Venter's journey to becoming a Miss Teen Universe South Africa finalist has been nothing short of an incredible adventure. From the moment she saw the opportunity to participate, she knew she couldn't resist the chance to represent her country on an international stage.

"After being selected as a semi-finalist, I knew I had to work hard to stand out from the crowd, and that's exactly what I did," Rosie shares. She dedicated herself to fundraising for a cause close to Miss Teen Universe South Africa's heart—providing school accessories for children in need.

Her hard work and determination paid off when she was announced as a finalist. "I was over the moon. I am so proud to be part of a movement that empowers young women to become leaders and changemakers in their communities."

Representing South Africa on the Miss Teen Universe platform is more than just a title for Rosie. "It's an absolute honor and a dream come true. I want to be a beacon of hope, pride, and inspiration for my peers.

I'm committed to making a positive impact and leaving a lasting legacy." Rosie's journey also led her to an exciting opportunity—the launch of the first-ever Miss Teen Universe perfume, Pink Territory. "They were looking for ambassadors, and everyone had the chance to purchase a bottle, do a photoshoot, and then three ambassadors would be chosen. I was honored and happy to be one of them," she says. As an ambassador, she will travel to different countries with the 2025 queens, representing the Pink Territory brand.

Her passion for empowering young people goes beyond the pageant stage. Rosie launched her own perfume, PINK, which is directly linked to her campaign, Pink Out Loud. This initiative started when she was given a task as a finalist to create an affirmation project. Initially unsure of what to do, she reflected on who she truly was. "Pink is my favorite color—it represents who I am. But I wanted it to have deeper meaning," she explains.

PINK stands for:

Positive: "I try to inspire teenagers to find something positive in every situation. Rejection is protection. Always seek the good."

Innocent: "Stay a child for as long as possible. Don't rush into smoking, drinking, or swearing. There's no need to grow up too fast."

Natural: "Girls should embrace their natural beauty and stop comparing themselves to unrealistic, filtered images."

Kind: "Kindness can change someone's life. You can be the push that lifts someone up instead of the one that brings them down."

Rosie uses the profits from her perfume sales to buy school supplies for children in need. "I've already given out 100 pairs of school shoes in just a few months, and I still have 50 more to distribute with Miss Teen Universe."

Balancing her responsibilities as a finalist, ambassador, and campaign leader while managing school has been a challenge, but Rosie has mastered the art of time management. "Luckily, I have a strong support system.

My mom helps me a lot—she even manages my speeches since I became an inspirational speaker through my campaign."

#Pageant

Interview with Rosie Venter

Teen Universe South Africa 2025 Finalist

Throughout her journey, Rosie has gained confidence in her abilities, especially public speaking. “I’ve learned the importance of speaking up and sharing my values and passions. These lessons will shape me into a confident and empowered individual.” Self-confidence has been a key factor in her success. “It’s essential for achieving goals and overcoming fear.

I’ve learned to see challenges as opportunities for growth. With confidence, I take risks, step out of my comfort zone, and stay driven.” To young girls aspiring to join the pageant world, Rosie offers heartfelt advice. “Embrace your uniqueness. Stay true to yourself and don’t try to be someone you’re not. Love and accept yourself because that’s what will shine through on stage. Always be prepared and work hard—success doesn’t happen overnight.”

The support Rosie has received from people across South Africa has been overwhelming. “I’ve connected with so many amazing people through voting and social media. But my biggest supporter has been my mom. On days when I feel lost, she’s always there, keeping me positive and standing behind me 100%.”

Looking ahead, Rosie envisions Pink Out Loud and her perfume PINK becoming a global movement. “I want to inspire young women to raise their voices and become leaders in their communities. My goal is to leave a lasting legacy.” If crowned Miss Pre-Teen Universe South Africa, Rosie plans to take her campaign to the next level. “I will use my platform to create positive change, inspire others, and empower young girls to become leaders in their own right.”

As she prepares for the finals on March 21 in Polokwane, Limpopo, Rosie invites everyone to follow her journey and support her. “To those who have already been following and supporting me, thank you so much.”

She leaves her supporters with a powerful message: “Always do your best, and Jesus will do the rest.” Lots of love, Rosie Venter – your Miss Pre-Teen Universe South Africa finalist.

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Dr. Manuela Jiménez

> *Supporting women who aspire to be leaders is something I take seriously.*

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Champion for Education and Leadership

Dr. Manuela Jimenez, Ed.D., the newly crowned Dr. World Latina 2025, is more than just a titleholder. She is an educator, mentor, and advocate for change. Her journey has been shaped by a deep passion for education, a strong commitment to leadership, and a dedication to empowering young minds.

"From a young age, I've been deeply passionate about formal education and its incredible power to transform lives," Dr. Jimenez shares. This passion led her to earn a Doctor of Education degree with a specialization in educational leadership. Her career started in the classroom, teaching students of different backgrounds and ages. She recalls her earliest teaching experience as an intern at a daycare when she was just 16 years old. From those early days, she knew that education would be at the core of her life's work.

Over the years, Dr. Jimenez saw firsthand the challenges students faced beyond academics. That realization pushed her to transition into educational administration. "I wanted to create inclusive and equitable learning environments that empower every student to succeed," she explains. She became involved in leading initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion, working with various communities and organizations to advocate for systemic changes in education.

Dr. Jimenez is also a published author whose books "My Journey of Empowerment: From Pageant Queen to World Leader, "The Demon in the Hall," and he co-authored novel, "Winning Women: From Trials to Triumph," is available for purchase via Amazon.

She also published her doctoral research entitled, "The Journey Toward Ascension: Understanding the Natratives of Latinx Women in K-12 School Principalship," available for readers to download virtually for free via Google Scholar or Rowan University Libraries. "The purpose of my scholarly research and my books is to empower others's leadership abilities," and for that reason she is continuously engaging in research and writing to produce future publications that is empowering to all.

Her biggest inspiration has always been her mother. "She was a professional nurse and a fashion designer. She instilled in me a love for learning and the belief that education is essential," Dr. Jimenez says. Watching her mother excel in two different fields showed her that determination and passion could lead to meaningful success.

Dr. Jimenez also has a strong commitment to mentoring women, serving as a coach, mentor, and ambassador for organizations like Girls on the Run of Central NJ and Women into Networking (WIN). "Supporting women who aspire to be leaders is something I take seriously. I want to be the mentor that I needed when I was younger."

Despite her success, she has faced challenges, particularly in underfunded educational environments. "One of the biggest hurdles I encountered was the lack of resources and support in some institutions. Instead of letting that stop me, I forged partnerships with local businesses and organizations to bring in the support we needed." She also sought mentorship herself, continuously learning and growing to better serve her students and colleagues.

In 2018, Dr. Jimenez co-founded Middlesex STEM Charter School, located in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The school serves children in grades K-8 and provides students with an opportunity to hone their leadership skills. This initiative reflects her commitment to fostering a strong foundation in STEM education, ensuring that young learners have access to resources and mentorship that prepare them for future success. Among its students is Amelia Estevez, Dr. World Princess and the niece of Dr. Jimenez, who benefits from the school's nurturing and academically rigorous environment.

One of her proudest achievements has been launching a mentorship program for underrepresented students. "We connected students with mentors from various industries, helping them with academic skills, personal development, and career exploration. Seeing them grow, gain confidence, and pursue higher education has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career." For women aspiring to succeed in education, Dr. Jimenez advises, "Embrace your passion and stay true to your unique voice. Seek mentorship and build a strong network of support. Confidence in your ideas is empowering, and challenges should be seen as opportunities for growth."

Balancing work and life has been another important aspect of her journey. "I prioritize setting clear boundaries between my work and personal life. Self-care is important, and I make time for exercise, reading, and being with family and friends." She has also faced gender-related challenges, especially as a Latina woman in leadership roles. "I have been underestimated, but I remained assertive and let my work speak for itself. Building alliances with other women leaders has been incredibly empowering."

Her passion extends beyond education. She actively supports causes that promote equity and access to resources for underserved communities. She volunteers, conducts workshops, and speaks publicly on the importance of diversity and inclusion. "It's critical that students see themselves represented in their education. I advocate for curriculum diversity to create an inclusive learning environment."

Dr. Jimenez credits her success to a mindset of continuous learning. "I set weekly goals, attend professional development workshops, and journal my thoughts and aspirations. Staying engaged with fellow educators and hearing student success stories keeps me motivated." Reflecting on her journey, she says, "The most valuable lesson I've learned is that challenges are inevitable, but how we respond to them defines our path. Every setback is a learning opportunity."

Looking ahead, she remains focused on expanding her mentorship programs, supporting women in leadership, and continuing to be a force for positive change in education. "Education is a powerful tool for social change, and I will always champion it." She also seeks to continue publishing peered reviewed scholarly research that impacts educational policy.

Dr. Manuela Jimenez is more than an educator or a pageant queen. She is a leader, author, mentor, and an inspiration to many. Her story is a reminder that passion, determination, and the willingness to uplift others can truly make a difference.

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Mohau

Mahlangu

#Judge

Mohau Mmeliwesizwe Mahlangu

A Vision of Hope and Style

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For Mohau Mmeliwesizwe Mahlangu, life's challenges have served as stepping stones for growth, transformation, and making a difference. As a cancer survivor, Creative Director of Mr. and Mrs. Universe North West, and Creative Director of Rubella Modeling Agency, his story is one of unwavering determination and a desire to bridge gaps in the fashion industry while championing vital social causes.

"When I was diagnosed with cancer, it felt like everything I had worked for was slipping away," Mohau recalls. "I was a rising rugby star with dreams of becoming a Springbok, but cancer came as a thief, stealing that dream. Instead of giving up, I found a new purpose—to advocate for early detection and to support others on the same journey."

This purpose fuels his mission today. As a public speaker for CHOC SA (Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa), Mohau connects with children, teens, and families affected by childhood cancer. "Faith is the evident demonstration of realities not seen," he shares. "Never give up, no matter the hurt. Every child has a right to hope—hope for better treatment outcomes, hope for a brighter tomorrow, and hope to live life to its fullest." Mohau's work emphasizes that a diagnosis should never define one's life. "Infirmities should not cloud one's determination," he says. "It's about endurance, the kind that keeps you standing with your face to the wind, seeing the goal beyond the pain."

As Creative Director of Mr. and Mrs. Universe North West, Mohau's vision is to uncover unique talent across South Africa and elevate it to international recognition. "My work is about spotting raw potential and transforming it into something extraordinary, starting from grassroots to greatness," he explains. His creative direction celebrates rural beauty, diversity, and individuality while breaking boundaries in the modeling and fashion industry.

His role as Creative Director of Rubella Modeling Agency is an extension of this vision. "I wanted to help bridge the gap between rural talent and the broader fashion world," he says. "Our agency nurtures talent, fosters creativity, and organizes exceptional events. This work is deeply fulfilling and gives me the chance to uplift others."

Balancing his creative endeavors with advocacy, Mohau champions male grooming and mental well-being. He urges former pageant kings to take active roles in uplifting communities lacking these opportunities. "When you look good, you feel good," he emphasizes, highlighting the transformative power of self-care and appearance.

His involvement in judging competitions, such as Ms. Beauty Brand Ambassador, reflects his appreciation for qualities like courage, humility, and determination. "I look for someone who exudes strength and authenticity," Mohau says. "Beauty is not just about appearance—it's about the mind and spirit."

Mohau's life is proof of the power of hope and perseverance, but he openly acknowledges the difficulties. "Clinics and hospitals have been like second homes to me because of my health challenges," he admits. "But I've learned that endurance is about more than surviving hardships. It's about having a steadfast, hopeful outlook that allows you to keep moving forward."

One defining moment from his cancer journey inspired him to speak out about the importance of early detection. "I realized how many lives could be saved with awareness and access to resources," he explains. "That's when I knew I had to do more than survive—I had to make a difference."

Through his work, Mohau hopes to inspire young people to overcome challenges and pursue their dreams. "The social needs of the youth motivate me to apply my skills and resources to empower them," he shares. "It's my vision to help them rise above adversity, set goals, and believe in themselves."

The joy of seeing lives transformed keeps Mohau dedicated to his mission. "Helping others find hope and purpose is the most rewarding part of my work," he says. "Whether it's through fashion, advocacy, or public speaking, my goal is to uplift others and remind them that they're not alone."

For those facing adversity, Mohau offers heartfelt advice. "Hope has been the driving force of my existence," he reflects. "Discipline and consistency are key to navigating life's challenges. Stay positive, believe in yourself, and never let your circumstances define your potential."

Mohau's passion for change is contagious. His commitment to supporting cancer awareness, nurturing talent, and creating impactful events makes him a role model for aspiring creatives and advocates alike. To support Mohau's work or collaborate with his NPO, Mohau Mmeliwesizwe Mahlangu, reach out and join his mission to create a brighter future for all. mohauhlumela@gmail.com / 063 606 8741

Devline van Rooyen

PPMC MAGAZINE ISSUE 140

The Inspirational Journey of a Young Model Breaking Boundaries and Shaping the Future of Fashion

#Model

Meet Devline van Rooyen

His Mission to Empower Others

At just 19 years old, Devline van Rooyen has already made a name for himself in the modeling industry. His journey began in 2023 when he discovered the Mr/Miss Alberton pageant, an platform dedicated to uplifting the community. "I've always strived to help the community," Devline shares. That same year, he visited the United Cerebral Palsy Association of South Africa (UCPLA) and participated in a variety of workshops, further deepening his commitment to making a difference.

In October 2023, Devline stepped onto the runway for the title of Mr. Alberton, and with confidence and faith, he walked away with not just one but five titles that night: Mr. Alberton 2023, Mr. Inspirational 2023, Mr. Next Top Model 2023, Mr. Public Choice 2023, and Mr. Social Media 2023.

A year later, he competed for Mr. Model of KZN, where he not only showcased his talent but also mentored aspiring models, teaching them etiquette and how to walk with confidence. His hard work paid off, and he claimed the prestigious title of Model of KZN 2024. Devline is currently holding the titles of Mr. Spring 2024 and Mr. Spring Ambassador, a testament to his growing influence in the industry. "This pageant has truly opened doors for me," he says. "From walking in the middle of a mall to professional photoshoots to creating amazing content, it has been an unforgettable experience." Devline credits @GD_Pagents for recognizing true beauty and giving him the space to be himself. "GD_Pagents is the first pageant where I am truly accepted for who I am. The director, @x.gabriella.d, has built me into the model I am today by always staying positive and confident. She is a true role model."

When asked what inspired him to pursue modeling, Devline points to the beauty of the industry and the role models within it. "Meeting different celebrities and hearing their stories about how they achieved their dreams really made me want to be like them." However, his biggest influence remains his mother. "Without her dedication, hard work, and support, none of this would be possible."

Devline's journey wasn't always easy. "I was really nervous at first because of my sexuality," he admits. "That's why my goal is to raise awareness that no matter who you choose to love or what you wear, it doesn't define who you are. I compete not just to win, but to prove that being gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian, or trans doesn't stop you from reaching your dreams. Everyone has a purpose. We are all loved equally. I don't hold multiple titles just for being handsome or photogenic—I stand up for my people and for what is right."

Among his biggest challenges is deciding what to wear. "From hair to socks, everything has to look perfect. It's always a challenge, so I put a lot of thought into working with brands and seeing what suits me best." He prepares thoroughly for events, ensuring his skin looks fresh with a strict routine that includes Cuticura face scrub for breakouts. He also reaches out to barbers, designers, and his support network to finalize every detail before stepping onto the stage. To Devline, being a great model is about authenticity. "It's about being true to yourself, knowing your purpose, and understanding why you are competing. Staying consistent, carrying confidence, and believing in yourself—that's what makes a great model."

As Mr. Spring Ambassador, Devline is dedicated to helping @x.gabriella.d build GD_Pageants even further. "I believe this platform can make dreams happen." Looking ahead, his ambitions are even bigger. "In the next five years, I see myself as Mr. South Africa, competing on even bigger platforms. I also want to start my own brand, possibly in fashion."

For young aspiring models, Devline has simple yet powerful advice: "Always attend workshops. Walk with confidence. Know who you are and, most importantly, have fun. Don't give up on your dreams."

Beyond competing, Devline has had the honor of judging pageants such as Simplicity Models, Mr/Miss Highland Gathering, and Mr. and Miss Alberton 2024. He has also worked as a runway coach for Strive Agency and collaborated with various photographers and brands.

As he continues to rise in the modeling world, Devline lives by his motto for 2025: "Keep your eye on the stars and your feet on the ground. Opportunities don't happen—you create them."

Tshegofatso Maphura

> *I believe in sports because it keeps us healthy. Exercising keeps my mind and body strong for any challenge.*

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#Model

Meet Tshegofatso Mahura

Miss Teen Rustenburg 2025 Finalist

For Tshegofatso Mahura, modeling is more than just walking a runway—it's about confidence, self-expression, and inspiring others. From striking poses in front of a mirror to being a finalist for Miss Teen Rustenburg 2025, her journey is fueled by a deep passion for fashion and the thrill of being in the spotlight. "What inspired me more is the opportunity to be in the spotlight, to bring confidence out of the box, and to be alive in front of those who are ashamed of themselves," she shares.

Being a finalist at a young age is an exciting and empowering experience for Tshegofatso. "It gives me courage and is so much fun. I can see myself going far. Doing something that cheers my heart is really a bonus in my life. In the next three to five years, I see the world opening up for me."

Through this competition, she hopes to gain experience and develop as a top model while inspiring other young women to step out of their comfort zones. "I just want to see more ladies pursuing this industry and leaving their shyness behind. They will see me on stage with confidence, as young as I am, and know they can do it too."

One of the things she enjoys most about pageantry is the opportunity to travel, gain exposure, and engage with other models. "The most exciting part is meeting other models, sharing motivations, and traveling for photoshoots. Another highlight is meeting my pageant manager, who has played a big role in my journey."

Like many models, Tshegofatso has faced challenges. "The biggest challenge is the physical and mental aspects. Dealing with stress and emotions can be tough, but I've learned that to overcome these challenges, I just need to be myself." To stay motivated, she focuses on positivity, her strengths, and what makes her unique.

Outside of pageantry, she is passionate about sports. "I believe in sports because it keeps us healthy. Exercising keeps my mind and body strong for any challenge. I also love reading and cooking delicious meals for my family." Looking ahead, she hopes to pursue a long-term career in modeling and pageantry. "It's something I love, and it keeps my heart light. It also helps me stay focused and disciplined, and I know it will change my life in the future." But she also has other dreams. "I want to do well in tennis or soccer. Academically, I plan to study to become a neurosurgeon and possibly a social worker."

Her biggest role model is her mother. "She plays a huge role in my life. She never abandoned us and continues to support me and my sister through everything. Even when she doesn't have money, she sacrifices for me to make sure my journey is smooth."

Balancing school, personal life, and pageantry is important to her. "School is my top priority. I finish my schoolwork first, then focus on my pageant preparations. My mom helps manage my pageant responsibilities, and we work hand in hand. I also keep my personal life simple, mainly socializing at school and spending time with my family."

People may be surprised to learn that despite her confidence, she is a quiet and kind-hearted person. "I love socializing, but I avoid trouble. I believe in giving, even when I don't have much. Helping others is something I truly value."

If she wins Miss Teen Rustenburg 2025, Tshegofatso plans to use her title to give back to the community. "Without the support of my community, I wouldn't be where I am today. I want to raise funds, collect clothes, shoes, sanitary towels, and hygiene products to support young girls and boys in need."

To young girls hesitant to enter pageantry, her advice is simple: "Embrace rejection and don't let it hold you back. Develop your portfolio and stay focused on school. Even small pageants can help you grow. Beauty goes hand in hand with intelligence, so balancing school and modeling is key."

Her motto is clear: "Unleash your inner supermodel and be the face of the future!"

Follow her journey on Instagram @Mahura.Tshegofatso and on Facebook: Tshegofatso/Boitshoko Mahura

Zizele Skhosana

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#Talent

Zizele Londiwe Princess Skhosana

Public Speaking, Modeling, and Leadership

Meet Zizele Londiwe Princess Skhosana, a dynamic 14-year-old from Mpumalanga Province, the 'Province of the Rising Sun.' Hailing from the Kwamhlanga area, Zizele is a standout figure in her community, excelling in public speaking, modeling, and leadership. With a passion for inspiring others, Zizele's journey is one of confidence, talent, and relentless determination.

Zizele's interests have always aligned with activities that allow her to express herself creatively and confidently. According to her parent, "Zizele has always been drawn to activities that let her shine, whether in public speaking, modeling, or leadership roles. With guidance from her teacher Mrs. V.S. Mahlangu, her dream of becoming a public speaker became a reality, and her love for modeling has only grown stronger."

Modeling has become a platform for her to showcase not just her style, but also her personality. Her leadership skills have also been crucial in inspiring others, particularly as the president of Kwamhlanga Southwest, representing all schools in the area.

Zizele's talents first became evident during her time in grade six, when she expressed an interest in modeling. "She was always looking for platforms to start her modeling career," says her parent. Her first pageant experience came in grade seven in 2022, and although she didn't win, she refused to give up. By 2023, her efforts began to pay off as she clinched several titles, including Miss Township South Africa Pre-Teen 2025, Miss Teen Angelic Blue Mpumalanga, and Miss Teen Gorgeous Moloto 2024. This year has been a significant milestone, as Zizele continues to build her modeling career with confidence.

Her family has played a crucial role in nurturing her talents. "As parents, we've always been supportive," Zizele's mother shares. "We've made sure she has access to opportunities, whether it's driving her to competitions, attending her public speaking events, or encouraging her participation in school activities like the choir." Her mother's commitment to her development is clear—Zizele has flourished with the support and mentorship she receives at home.

Zizele's passion for public speaking also stems from her desire to become a hardworking and independent individual. "When you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life," Zizele says. This quote resonates deeply with her as she aspires to become a successful public speaker and role model. Her journey, however, hasn't been without challenges.

Like many others, Zizele struggled with low self-esteem, particularly in public speaking. Competing in a predominantly white and Indian-dominated environment also made it difficult at times, but Zizele never allowed these barriers to stop her. Instead, she used them as opportunities to learn and grow, emerging stronger with each experience.

Her involvement in sports, particularly as a former athlete, also helped develop key life skills such as discipline and teamwork, which have translated into her other passions. "She's always carried those skills into modeling and public speaking," says her parent.

"Through modeling, she's learned about self-expression and self-care, and public speaking has boosted her communication skills." These talents, paired with her natural leadership abilities, have shaped her into a well-rounded individual. Zizele's impressive achievements speak volumes about her hard work. As a model, she's not only competed in various events but also earned accolades for her confidence and charisma. Her public speaking career has been equally successful, with Zizele winning multiple competitions and delivering presentations that reflect her growing confidence and clarity.

Even with her numerous accolades, Zizele remains committed to her academics, receiving multiple awards for her schoolwork. Her family helps maintain a healthy balance between her hobbies and school responsibilities. "We make sure she stays focused on school during the week," says her parent, "and set aside time for her hobbies on weekends or during breaks." With strong support from her family, Zizele remains organized and driven to pursue all of her passions.

Looking ahead, Zizele's family envisions her future evolving in remarkable ways. "We see Zizele aiming for even greater achievements, like becoming Miss South Africa," her parent shares. Her public speaking skills may lead her into politics or motivational speaking, while her ambition to become a chartered accountant reflects her desire to balance both creative and academic pursuits. Whatever the future holds, Zizele's hard work, talent, and determination will continue to take her to new heights.

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#Model

Interview with Simonè de Jager

A Journey of Passion and Purpose

At just 24 years old, Simonè de Jager has already carved a path of excellence in both academics and pageantry. Originally from Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, she has recently settled in Mossel Bay while completing her BCom Financial Accounting degree at the University of South Africa. With aspirations of becoming a chartered accountant, Simonè is a shining example of ambition, resilience, and dedication.

Her journey into the world of modeling and pageantry began at the tender age of four when her late father enrolled her in a modeling agency. "I was a shy child, unsure of my own potential, but my father saw something in me that I hadn't yet discovered. That moment sparked a lifelong passion for pageantry and self-improvement," she shares.

Over the years, Simonè has used her platform to advocate for meaningful causes, firmly believing that pageantry extends far beyond beauty and glamour. "It's about empowering others, making a difference, and being a voice for change. When you stand on that stage, you carry the dreams and hopes of so many," she explains.

Despite her success, the road hasn't always been easy. From navigating self-doubt to facing rejection, she has learned the importance of perseverance and self-care. "Every setback has taught me resilience. Prioritizing mental well-being, staying active, and surrounding myself with positive influences have been crucial in overcoming challenges," she notes.

Beyond pageantry, Simonè has a keen interest in finance, fitness, and spending time with her beloved dogs. "Numbers have always fascinated me, and I love how finance plays a critical role in shaping lives and businesses. But outside of that, I ensure I maintain balance by staying active and enjoying nature."

Her love for photoshoots has also grown over the years, providing her with an avenue for self-expression and creativity. "Being in front of the camera allows me to showcase different facets of my personality, and collaborating with photographers always brings fresh, exciting perspectives." Education is another pillar of Simone's journey. She advocates for accessible learning opportunities and believes knowledge is the key to unlocking potential. "Education equips us with the tools to achieve our dreams. That's why I'm so passionate about encouraging others to embrace learning in all its forms."

One of the most rewarding aspects of her journey has been the friendships she has built along the way. "The sisterhood in pageantry is unlike anything else. The support, encouragement, and shared experiences create lifelong bonds that I cherish deeply."

For young women aspiring to enter the world of modeling and pageantry, Simone offers valuable advice: "Confidence is your greatest asset. Hone your communication skills, research the industry, and choose a platform that aligns with your values. But above all, never compromise your self-worth."

Looking ahead, Simonè envisions herself making a mark both in finance and on the pageant stage, with Miss South Africa or Miss World South Africa in her sights. "I want to be a testament to the fact that intelligence and beauty go hand in hand. Whether in finance or on stage, my goal is to inspire, uplift, and create a lasting impact."

Additionally, she dreams of establishing a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentorship and sponsorship opportunities for young individuals in need. "Everyone deserves a chance to reach their full potential. I want to be part of that journey for as many people as possible."

With unwavering determination, a heart for change, and a vision that transcends boundaries, Simonè de Jager is a name to remember. Whether in the boardroom, on the stage, or in the community, her journey is one of passion, purpose, and undeniable impact.

#Talent

Meet Sindi Micaela Majosi

A Shining Star With a Purpose

"My name is Sindi Micaela Majosi, I'm 18 years old from Barcelona, Daveyton," says the proud Gauteng representative for the Miss National Youth President 2025 competition. Sindi is full of hope and dreams, and she is determined to change her background while staying rooted in her humble beginnings. She reflects on the opportunity presented by PPMC Magazine: "I'd like to thank PPMC Magazine for giving me this opportunity."

Being a beacon of hope and a shining star in the making, Sindi's journey in the world of modeling is one of personal growth and dedication. "What has inspired me to join modeling is my desire to give back to myself and the rest of the world. I want to make the world a better place," she shares.

Her modeling experience has been more than just about beauty and glamour—it's been a powerful learning journey. "It taught me a lot about courage and building my self-esteem," Sindi explains. Representing Gauteng as Miss Senior Gauteng Youth President 2024/2025 means the world to her, and she takes the role seriously. "Being a leader means leading with courage, power, and focus," she says. As a model and youth leader, she aims to encourage the younger generation to keep believing in themselves. "Always think about where you are and where you want to be. The gap in between is called audacity. Have the audacity to believe."

One of her proudest achievements as Miss Senior Gauteng Youth President has been finding the courage to start the Mega Majozi Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on empowering women, youth, boys, girls, and communities.

The foundation aims to break the cycle of poverty and inequality while fostering leadership and social cohesion. "We are empowering through education, economic empowerment, and social development," Sindi says.

As a finalist for Miss National Youth President 2025, Sindi has set her sights on advocating for unity in South Africa, where diverse cultures make up the country's fabric. "We should all live in unity and love one another," she emphasizes. Ready to shine her light and share her story, Sindi is determined to inspire others to do the same. "My unique blend of passion, creativity, and determination is what I'm willing to spread and share with the world," she adds.

However, Sindi's journey hasn't come without its challenges. Financial struggles have been a constant reality for her family. "I come from an average family, so when it comes to finances, we have to be very careful and use what we have wisely," she says.

Despite these challenges, Sindi is grateful for the unwavering support of her mother and brother, who have always been by her side. "One thing about my mom is that she's always there for me," she shares. "If I'm short on votes or need something else, I don't have to stress because she's there. I thank God for my mom and my brother. I'm nothing without them." Should she be crowned Miss National Youth President, Sindi plans to lead several initiatives focusing on empowerment, education, and community development. "I want to inspire and encourage the youth through various platforms," she says confidently.

Her advice to young people is simple but powerful: "Never give up. Yes, there are obstacles in your way, but they will be part of your testimony one day. Don't listen to negativity, and never try to copy someone else's plan. Always do you, and leave your own footprints. Make a lasting statement."

Reflecting on her journey, Sindi has learned to face challenges head-on, particularly the financial difficulties that come with pursuing her dreams. "Never stop moving. Not all doors you knock on are locked—some you have to push so they can open," she reflects. She advises others to stay focused and not put too much pressure on themselves. "Always ask for help when needed, because mental health is very important."

Through her modeling platform, Sindi hopes to promote youth empowerment, collaborate with brands and organizations supporting youth development, raise awareness about youth-related issues, promote positive body image, and inspire young people to take action. "Remember my name, South Africa, as I soar to greater heights," she concludes. With her unwavering determination and passion for making a difference, Sindi Micaela Majosi is certainly a name to remember.

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